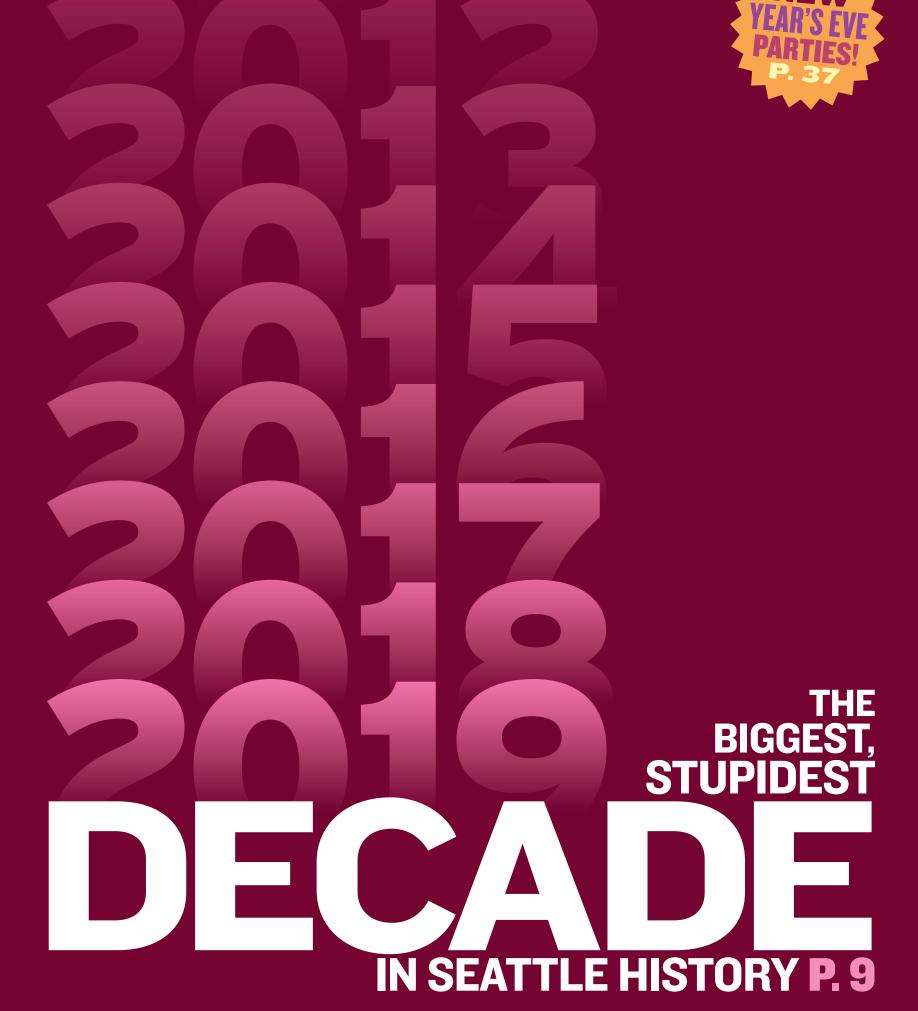
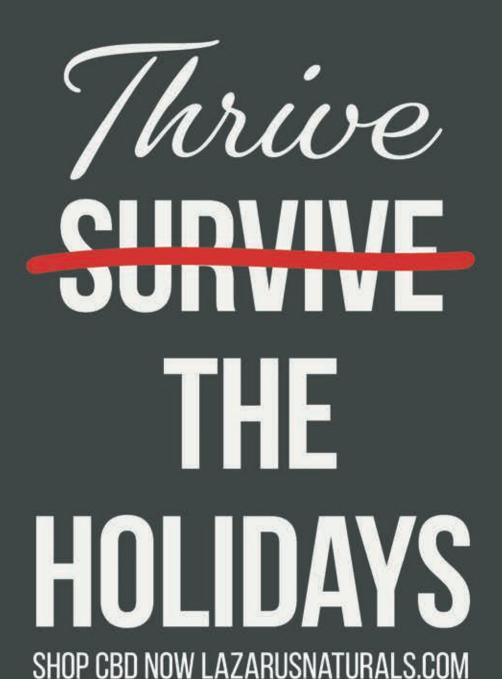
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VOLUME 29. ISSUE NUMBER 9

December 18-31, 2019



COVER ART

By Jessica Stein

FORTNIGHT

What you missed if you've been bribing Ukraine for the last two weeks. Plus: A message from gold medalist Michael Phelps!

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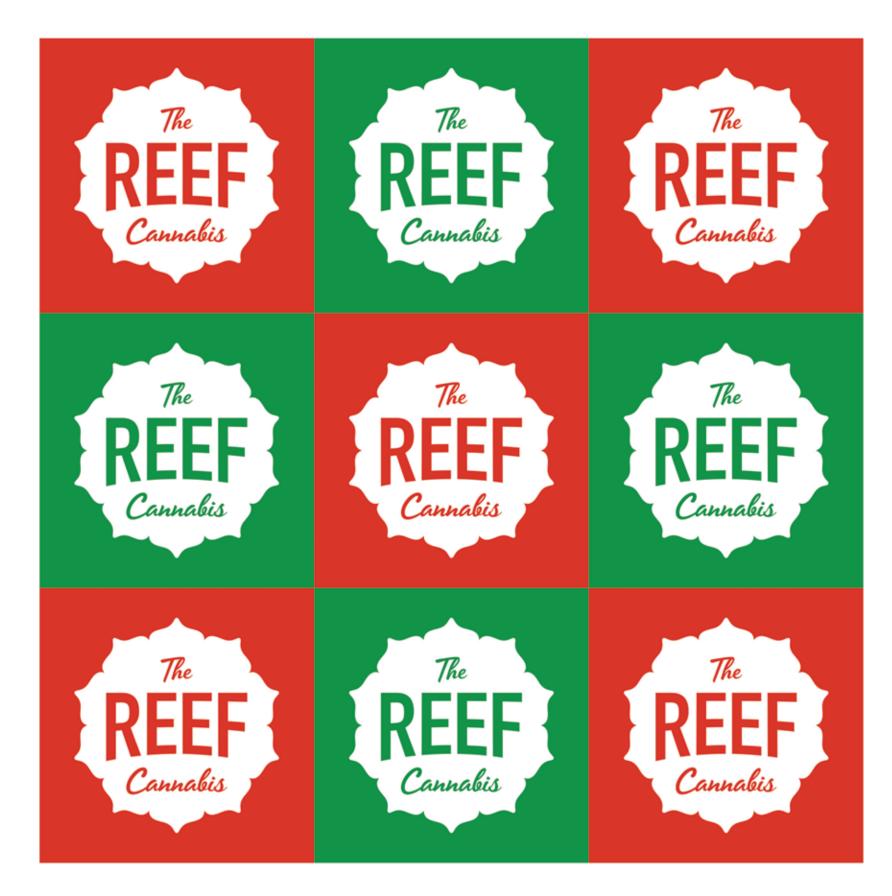


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EDITOR'S NOTE



In the November 20 issue of The Stranger, we published a piece by Nathalie Graham about the youthful newly elected Seattle City Council. Andrew Lewis, who will represent District 7, is 29 years old and the youngest elected council member in Seattle history. In fact, there will be only one baby boomer left on the city council, 60-year-old Debora Juarez. "So if you're going to make any 'OK, boomer' jokes at anyone on the council, it better be Juarez," Graham wrote. The online version of the storu was headlined "Andrew Lewis Is the Youngest Seattle City Council Member in History." But in print, we needed a shorter headline, so we went with "Not OK. Boomer," which was apparently... not okay. "No one disputes the need for change and a new generation of leadership. But your print headline, 'Not OK, Boomer,' was pure hate, and unrelated to the heart of the story," a reader named John wrote in by e-mail. He added, "We get enough disrespect on the street, on the bus, and in the job market without this kind of gratuitous s**t.' OK hoomer

The Biggest Lesson I **Learned This Decade**

BY MICHAEL PHELPS

ou probably know me as the most successful Olympian of all time. My friends know me as someone who eats like a wood chipper on the highest setting. I once ate a small koala because I mistook it for a loaf of bread. These days, I just stick with hamburgers. I had four this morning-two Quarter Pounders with cheese for breakfast, and two more for a midmorning snack. When you put it like that, four hamburgers in one morning doesn't seem so crazy, does it? The only thing about hamburgers is, they never made sense to me. They had a structural problem. No matter what I did, I'd run out of bottom bun before I ran out of top bun. Halfway through, I'd have a massive continent of top bun and a shrinking island of bottom bun. Why? Even though the top bun is poofier than the bottom bun, it's no larger in circumference. What was going on? I couldn't figure it out. Turns out, the problem isn't hamburgers. It's me. I have an underbite. Whenever I chomp down on anything, I chomp away the bottom portion more than the top portion. If you too have an underbite, well, I'm about to



blow your mind. Next time you have a hamburger, flip it over halfway through and eat it upside down. I'm telling you, this is a fucking game changer. One of those moments when you learn something ridiculously late in life. Time stops briefly and reveals its absurdity. I've spent a lot of my life facedown in a pool, so there are all kinds of things I'm still learning, but this is the biggest one so far. As the year comes to a close, I decided to impart this wisdom to you. Like they say on those commercials: The more you know.

I, ANONYMOUS



YOU: Cute woman with a cute dog. You're usually walking around my neighborhood, and I sometimes see you at the dog park. We smile, and I can sort of feel a connection when we talk I was kind of hoping for a chance, but...

ME: This afternoon while walking my dog, I thought nobody was behind me as I casually started farting for each step I took (about five steps). The farts were loud and gross—and when I looked behind me, the horror in your eyes said it all. I sheepishly waved and then quickly crossed the street and boogied up a side street. If I ever had a chance, it's over now. :(

SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

ianonymous@thestranger.com



Astronauts on the International Space Station spent Thanksgiving in diapers after both of their \$19.000 toilets broke.

The day after Thanksgiving, a car speeding up Aurora Avenue struck four pedestrians, killing two. The police say the driver appeared to be under the influence of meth, $\mathtt{but}\, Stranger\, \mathtt{philosopher}\, \textbf{Charles}\, \textbf{Mudede}$ argued that it's not meth to blame, it's America's obsession with cars Can't it be both?

After a year of pedestrian deaths, Mayor **Jenny Durkan** has announced that all arterials-any busy street that has a dividing line—will have their speed lowered to 25 miles per hour. There have been 25 deaths on Seattle streets this year and 153 serious

injuries. There will also be an increase in enforcement with incognito police officers crossing streets to see who does and doesn't vield to pedestrians.

Authorities in New Zealand ordered 1,290 square feet of **human skin** from the United

ernor Jay Inslee appointed Raquel Montova-Lewis to the high court. Montoya-Lewis is currently a judge for the Whatcom County Superior Court and

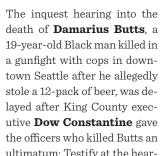
Mary E. Fairhurst's term, which ends in De-

A recent report found that more than half of Lime bikes were unrentable. However, they

excellent garnishes for the bottom of lakes.

Advocates for trans rights inundated the Seattle Public Library with complaints afterit was announced that an anti-trans-rights group will be holding an event at the library in February. The library says they are "reviewing all of their options," but according to the First Amendment, they really don't have any.

Protests are expected.



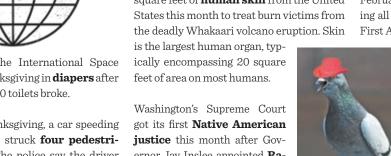
ings or lose access to your personal attorneys during the death investigation.

A North Bend movie theater got a mysterious package delivered. It was full of **urine** samples. While this seemingly was an address mix-up, are we sure this isn't the secret ingredient in movie theater popcorn?

Congressman Denny Heck, who represents Olympia and the surrounding area. announced his retirement from nearly "40 years of intermittent public service." Heck is probably best known for getting his own congressional district drawn for him during redistricting, and also for serving on the House Impeachment Committee, which ran the hearings on Trump. In his swan song, Heck, a moderate Democrat, lamented the lack of "civility" in the discourse, the lack of compromise in Congress, the fact that "all or nothing is in," and the general lack of nouns.

A movie theater got a mysterious package of urine samples.

Someone keeps putting tiny cowboy hats on Las Vegas's **pigeons**. Obvious animal abuse issues aside, the pigeons do look quite suave. We want one to sidle up next to us and drawl, "Hey lil' lady." ■



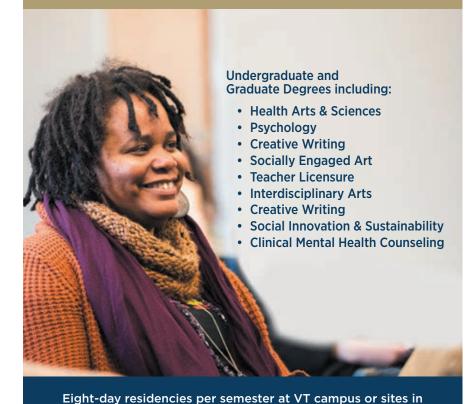
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The Biggest, Stupidest Decade in Seattle History

A look back on a lumpy 10 years.

he decade that began with President Barack Obama ended with the Cheeto-in-chief-proof that things do not necessarily get better. Over the last 10 years, some things in Seattle have improved (access to light rail, the price of weed) while other things have gotten much worse (the cost of rent, the plight of orcas). The Stranger's editorial staff recently gathered in a secret boxing ring underneath KeyArena to fight over the 20 essential news and culture stories of the decade—and then, just to drive ourselves crazy, we ranked them! Here they are in descending order of importance.

20. Man climbs a tree... and refuses to come down.

Do you remember where you were when a man climbed the 80-foot sequoia outside Macy's in downtown Seattle and wouldn't come down? It was March 2016, and I was watching live on my phone in a classroom at the University of Washington. The spectacle (a man? In a tree?!) quickly drew national media attention. As the hashtag #ManIn-Tree went viral, Man in Tree threw branches at the onlookers. He sat at the tip-top of the tree for 25 hours.

Finally, after more than a day had passed, he came down. He was charged with firstdegree malicious mischief and third-degree assault. Seattle mourned the wounded tree (the damage totaled \$7,800), and also the clearly unwell man. While the weird, seemingly unique-to-Seattle spectacle was entertaining, and a perfect encapsulation of many people's emotional reaction to the events of $2016 \, (Trump\, was\, beating\, his\, rivals\, in\, the\, Re$ publican primaries at the time), Man in Tree was going through some things, and found incompetent to stand trial during a psychiatric evaluation (which is why we are not naming him here). The story opened up a broader conversation around mentalhealth services. A Pennsylvania congressman even cited Man in Tree $when {\it proposing the Helping Families}$ in Mental Crisis Act. NATHALIE GRAHAM

19. White rapper in a thriftstore fur coat says, "Yes homo."

In the 1990s, Seattle's music scene was defined primarily by the commercial and artistic success of Nirvana. In the 2000s, it was Death Cab for Cutie. In the decade that we are completing, it is undoubtedly Macklemore, a white rapper who attended Nathan Hale High School, was an active member of the once-flourishing underground



hip-hop scene, and, in 2013, hit the big $time\ with\ the\ track\ "Thrift\ Shop."\ The$ album that track appeared on. The Heist, created with Ryan Lewis, sold 1.500.000 units in the United States alone, won several Grammys, and made Macklemore spectacularly rich. Macklemore now owns a part of the professional soccer team Seattle Sounders FC, and his name is known from Moscow to Manila.

Yes, this last decade in Seattle also produced big acts like Fleet Foxes and Shabazz Palaces. But you can't compare their achievements to Macklemore's. Indeed, the only other Seattle rapper who came anywhere close to Macklemore's level of fame is Sir

Mix-A-Lot, whose 1992 track "Baby Got Back" sold 2,500,000 units. But in terms of mainstream impact. Sir Mix-A-Lot was a one-hit wonder. Macklemore's commercial career kept popping for much of the decade, and it intersected with this decade's politics. including his insistence, with "Same Love," on treating gay people with dignity—rare for rappers at the time. CHARLES MUDEDE

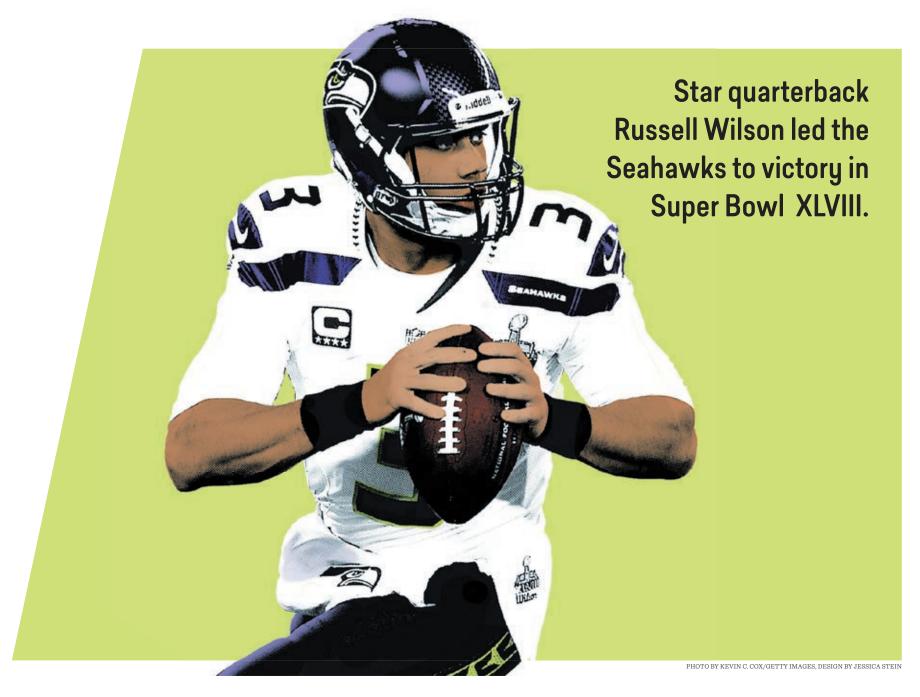
18. A bunch of women suddenly decide they want to be spanked.

Fifty Shades of Grey was a piece of Twilight internet fanfic before it became a book and then cinematic pop-porn. The writ $erpulled\,Bella\,and\,Edward\,out\,of\,their\,coffins$ in rural Washington State and plopped them into a boardroom in Seattle: she was now a

shy college student, and he was a CEO with

After the internet creamed its jeans, E.L. ${\tt James\,self-published}\,\textit{Fifty\,Shades\,of\,Grey}\, {\tt in}$ print. It stormed to the top of the best-seller list and staved there, becoming the vacation read of the decade, and proof that women really do love to read porn as long as it doesn't use words like "pussy" and instead uses phrases like "my inner goddess did backflips." Later, it was adapted into three blockbuster movies—cementing the Seattle skyline as kinky iconography and normalizing BDSM by getting women of all ages thinking about whips and ropes and what if you put two vibrating metal balls into your cooch while at a dinner party?

The summer after the first movie came



out, I was working at an AMC theater. One of my coworkers told me about how they kept finding cucumbers tucked into the seats after the Fifty Shades showings. NATHALIE GRAHAM

17. Seahawks win Super Bowl.

The Seattle Seahawks played their first game in 1976, but they didn't make it to the Super Bowl until 2005, and didn't actually win a Super Bowl until 2014, Super Bowl XLVIII. I won't get into the Seahawks' third Super Bowl appearance in 2015, aka the Game That Will Remain Unacknowledged, aka Please Do Not Make Me Relive That Pass.

Instead, let's focus on the impressive 2013 campaign, led by star quarterback (and apple of Seattle's eve) Russell Wilson, with fine support from "Beast Mode" running back Marshawn Lynch and linebacker and Super Bowl XLVIII MVP Malcolm Smith. That campaign saw the Seahawks finishing tied with the Denver Broncos for an NFL-best regular season record of 13-3, their earning of the NFC's number one playoff seed, and, ultimately, their claiming of a significant Super Bowl XLVIII victory (final score: 43-8). The Seahawks' defense that game and that season—the height of the Legion of Boomera—is often positioned near the top of lists ranking the best overall defenses in NFL history. Go Hawks! LEILANI POLK

16. Widest drill in the world gets stuck under Seattle.

Remember Bertha, the tunnel-boring

machine named after Washington State's first woman governor? After drilling only a thousand feet, the 57.5-foot-wide, \$80 million boring machine got stuck on December 6, 2013, wedged like a stubborn dry tampon underneath the bowels of the city

It would be nearly four fucking years until Bertha finally chewed her way through the remaining 8,000 feet to dig the State Route 99



It took Bertha nearly four fucking years to dig this goddamn tunnel.

Tunnel to replace the sinking Alaskan Way Viaduct. Those years were characterized by confusion, evasive bureaucrats, massive delays, lawsuits, a 119-foot metal pipe, rescue pits, sinkholes, pointed fingers, millions in unexpected costs, and billions in expected taxpayer costs. And for what? We were sold a vision of the waterfront that would reconnect our city to the water, but the city is now planning a surface-level highway where the viaduct once stood. It will be yet another monument to gas-guzzling cars. **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

15. The punk drag scene moves around the corner.

When Kremwerk opened in 2014, it immediately established itself as a hub of electronic-music producers and DJs and experimental drag artists. Previously, the Denny Triangle had been a Bermuda Triangle for edgy art, with the exception of Re-bar, which used to be an epicenter for both punk drag and avant-electronic music. Now clubbers into underground sounds and unconventional drag can simply make a left at the Market House Meats joint on Howell to get fresh cuts of beats and ham at Kremwerk.

When it comes to music, Kremwerk favors talent and diversity rather than overpaid prima-donna DJs who make bros and hoes punch the air. You could say it's the Berghain of the Northwest—but without the problematic entry policy. When it comes to drag, the venue has facilitated big breaks for unconventional performers such as Cucci Binaca, Arson Nicki, Betty Wetter, and Cookie Couture, Kremwerk's shows often have up to 50 drag queens acting outrageously around the complex, which also includes Timbre Room and Little Maria's Pizza. According to one aficionado, "It often feels like an anarchic drag school that's always throwing a party." DAVE SEGAL

14. Trump era begins with a shooting at the University of Washington.

On Trump's inauguration day in 2017, hundreds of people, including myself, gathered at the University of Washington to

protest a speech by the alt-right troll Milo Yiannopoulos. We forced the police to cut off admission before all the attendees got in. leaving many pissed-off right-wingers out in the dark with their tickets—but in the end, the people outside got a better show.

While listening to a racist riot cop going on a lengthy rant about the killing of Native woodcarver John T. Williams, we heard a bang. Somebody had been shot. "Antifa shot somebody," the cop said. Not true. A Milo supporter had shot an anarchist. The alleged shooter was not prosecuted, because the man he shot did not believe in the American justice system and refused to testify.

Nevertheless, it was a landmark event that encapsulated the political polarization of this era, and it would not be the last time that inflamed tensions and deranged theories spilled out of internet echo chambers and into the streets in the form of gun violence. $\mbox{\it DAVID}\,\mbox{\it LEWIS}$

13. One-woman play creates major waves across the country.

In February 2016, That's what she said premiered in a 49-seat auditorium at Gav City. unexpectedly launching an ongoing national conversation about copyright law and gender equity in theater. The show's dialogue, performed by Erin Pike, consisted entirely of the dialogue written for women characters in the top 11 most frequently produced American plays during the 2014-2015 season. Pike hammed it up as she transformed from sex $object \, and \, temptress, to \, angel, to \, angry \, witch, \,$



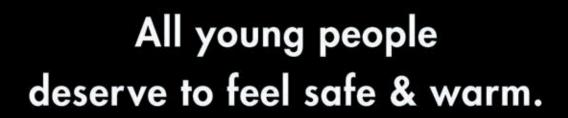
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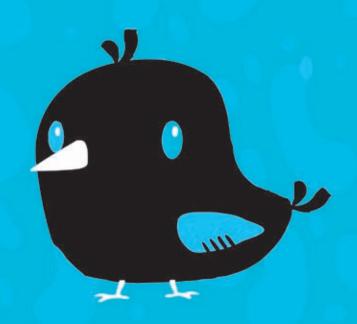
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to woman-hating woman, to woman who asks questions and apologizes for everything.

Written by Courtney Meaker and directed by HATLO, That's what she said brilliantly skewered stereotypes and indirectly critiqued the theater world, highlighting exactly what it was playhouses were choosing to produce. When the suits at Samuel French, the publisher that owned the rights to a few of the plays Meaker had cut up and arranged into the dramatic collage, read about the show on *The Stranger*'s website, they tried to shut the whole thing down. But the show went on, and That's what she said is now in the public domain.

It also contributed to a wave of increased $representation \ of \ women \ on \ Seattle \ stages.$ At Seattle Rep. for instance, more than half the plays in the 2019-2020 season were written by women, and all those plays star women or have a bunch of juicy roles for them. That's up from three out of nine in 2015. RICH SMITH

12. Airplanes fall from the sky.

On March 10, 2019, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 303 crashed only six minutes after takeoff. Everyone onboard, all 157 people, perished. It was the deadliest plane crash in Ethiopia's history. But that aspect of the accident is not what caught the world's attention. Instead it was the model of the plane: a Boeing 737 MAX 8.

Only four months earlier, a 737 MAX 8 operated by Indonesia's Lion Air fell out of the sky and plunged into the Java Sea. That accident killed 189 people. Was this a mere coincidence? Boeing's announcement of the new 737 MAX 8 series had been made on August 30, 2011. Its first flight happened in 2016. After its official release in 2017, it



Not the actual Horizon Air plane that crashed into Ketron Island in 2018.

quickly became Boeing's best-selling plane. After the 2019 crash in Ethiopia, the world abruptly grounded the plane. We exit the decade with no idea when these Seattle-built planes will see the sky again.

Speaking of planes crashing to earth out of the clear blue sky: Two months before that Lion Air Crash in October 2018, a ground service employee at Sea-Tac International Airport, Richard Russell, stole a Horizon Air Bombardier plane and, to the shock of Sea-Tac's air traffic controllers, took off. He had no experience as a pilot. When air traffic $control\,finally\,through\,to\,him, he\,said\,he\,was$ a "broken guy, got a few screws loose, I guess." Two fighter jets with air-to-air missiles were

scrambled to follow Russell, as he went up and down over the city, over the suburbs. over our beautiful bodies of water, performing aerial maneuvers. He finally crashed the plane on rural Ketron Island, killing himself. CHARLES MUDEDE

11. Jinkx Monsoon wins RuPaul's Drag Race.

Jinkx Monsoon was hosting a weekly drag show at Julia's on Broadway when she won RuPaul's Drag Race in 2013, beating out drag legends like Alyssa Edwards and Alaska Thunderfuck. I was at Julia's the night it happened, and the room exploded. People went apeshit, spilling out into the street, crying with joy. Jinkx was 24 years old and a recent theater grad from Cornish College of the Arts when she became a household name.

Since then, Jinkx has released two studio albums, a feature-length documentary, several web series, and multiple evening-length stage shows with collaborators like Major Scales and BenDeLaCreme. Jinkx began her career in the unlikeliest way—as a teenager busking on the streets of Portland in her grandma's wig—but now has celebrity fans like Leslie Jones and a million Instagram followers. She's one of the most visible and beloved trans artists ever to emerge from Seattle. "I don't really care if you see me as a man or a woman," Jinkx said in The Stranger in 2018, "as long as you know that I'm both at all times. I exist in the in-between."

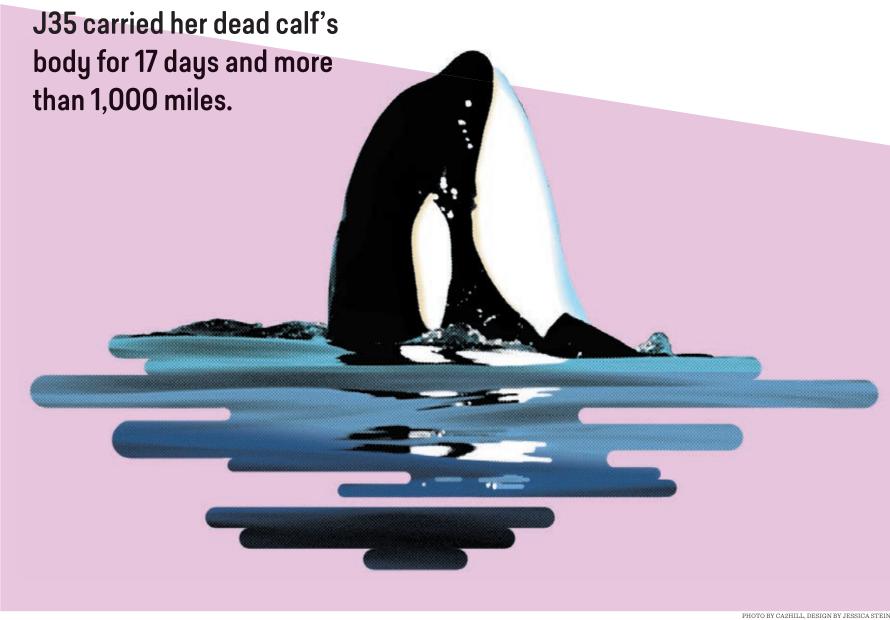
Other Seattle queens have appeared on RuPaul's show, including BenDeLaCreme (who should have won, but snatched defeat from the jaws of victory), Robbie Turner (who followed her so-so appearance by killing an imaginary Uber driver), and Magnolia Crawford (who?). But Jinkx's star burned the brightest, and changed the game, bringing worldwide attention to Seattle's plucky, offbeat drag scene. CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

10. Local print media gets murdered by Facebook, Google, and the Craigslist Killer.

Some trends may be widely exaggerated, but the death of local media is not one of them. This decade saw the print demise of Seattle Weekly, City Arts, and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (which, to be fair, still exists in the form of Joel Connolly's ghost and a dial-up connection). What the fuck happened to these semi-illustrious publications? The internet.

The massacre started with Craigslist, which wiped out 40 percent of newspaper revenue almost overnight. The killing was finished off by Google and Facebook, which take your data and serve it back to you in the form of personalized ads, and who knows what else. Newspapers, which are made of trees, could not compete, and so outlets all over the world pivoted to digital, folded, or both.

In Seattle, this has been a mixed bag. The Stranger is now the only print paper in the



city, which—we're not going to lie—feels fucking great. (Told you so, motherfuckers!!) Oh wait, there's also the Seattle Times, which is notorious for publishing editorials about how rich people need more tax breaks. According to Twitter, the Seattle Times might still exist. But don't believe everything you read on the internet. KATIE HERZOG

9. Grieving orca tries to get the world's attention.

The southern resident oreas living in the Salish Sea used to be rounded up and cap $tured in the 1960s \, and \, 1970s \, to \, supply \, places$ like SeaWorld with live killer whales. At the time, it wasn't understood that southern residents were a unique ecotype, and that their tiny population was being decimated. Hunt $ing\, or cas\, here\, is\, now\, illegal, but\, the\, southern$ resident population continues to dwindle, and the ones that remain are relatively skinny, suggesting a lack of food.

In 2018, a southern resident orca known to scientists as J35 (also known by the name Tahlequah) gave birth to a calf, only to see that calf die within an hour. Tahlequah carried her calf's body around, displaying it for all the world to see, for 17 days and more than 1.000 miles, in what many observers saw as an act of grief. Others interpreted it as Tahlequah saying, "Can someone please fucking help us already?"

NOAA believes pollution, vessel noise, and declining Chinook salmon populations all threaten the existence of the southern resident orcas. But Ken Balcomb, founder of the Center for Whale Research, believes

the main issue is that they are starving. Governor Jay Inslee has convened a task force on the southern resident orca population—the only endangered killer whales in the United States—and, after the death of Tahlequah's calf, he commissioned a study on breaching or removing dams on the lower Snake River, which could increase the Chinook population and give those oreas something to eat. Inslee needs to show courage in this moment; the cheap energy provided by hydroelectric dams is no easy thing to say no to. But there are only 73 southern resident orcas left on the planet. CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

8. Seattle chokes on wildfire smoke two summers in a row.

Ash fell on Seattle on September 5, 2017. covering the city in a sooty blanket for the first time since Mount St. Helens exploded 37 years earlier. This time, the ash wasn't from one of our volcanic peaks; it was from the millions of forested acres that surround $our\,city.\,Downtown\,sky scrapers\,dis appeared$ in a carcinogenic haze, the sun turned into a glowing orange wafer, and temperatures soared. Daytime highs were in the 90s, and for only the second time in 120 years, nighttime lows stayed above 70 degrees-a seemingly catastrophic sign for Seattle's future.

Seattleites chalked up that apocalyptic summer to a one-time freak occurrence. but a year later, in August 2018, smoke returned and engulfed the city for two weeks. The asphyxiating veil of smoke at one point hit 220 on the government's Air Quality Index. a "very unhealthy" level of smoke that is

equivalent to smoking more than seven cigarettes a day. Stores sold out of smoke masks.

Even though 2019's summer was wetter and considerably clearer, wildfire-wise, smoky summers will likely become more



What the daytime sun looked like

frequent. Globally, the five warmest years on record were 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, according to NOAA and NASA. And Seattle is surrounded by a tinderbox that won't get less flammable anytime soon. LESTER BLACK

during the apocalyptic wildfires.

7. Jeff Bezos shows the world his

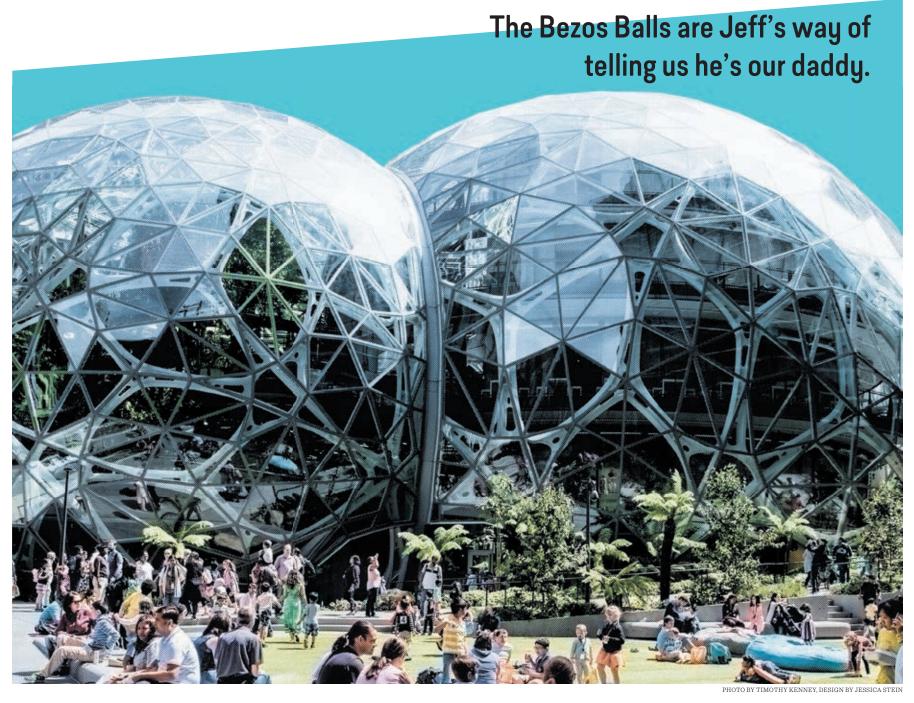
The Amazon Spheres (or the Bezos Balls, as we call them) officially opened in January 2018. Located along Lenora Street by South Lake Union, the three spherical conservatories housing 40,000 plants were designed by NBBJ and Site Workshop. They serve as a space for Amazon employees to slurp their coffee and an attraction for wide-eyed tourist groups to be corralled through.

Of course, the Bezos Balls are really a symbol of the extensive and radical changes brought to Seattle by Amazon. This was the $decade\ in\ which\ everyone's\ rents\ doubled\ or$ tripled, because brogrammers from Alaska and Appalachia and the Antarctic were suddenly moving here, and willing to pay exorbitant prices. An urban transformation was under way, too. South Lake Union used to be warehouses, parking lots, and old apartment buildings. Amazon's campuses brought with them tens of thousands of tech workers in stupid lanyards, glittery glass buildings, and

 $A mazon, run\,by\,a\,hundred\text{-billionaire}\,who$ looks like a Lex Luthor cosplayer, now occupies around 12 million square feet of office $space in 40\,buildings\, and\, employs\, 40,\!000\, peo$ ple in the city. Those numbers will only grow as Amazon continues to expand like a cancer determined to annihilate traditional retail.

The company has interfered with Seattle's political and cultural life as well. From threatening to back away from building projects after city hall passed (and later unpassed) a head tax (which was designed to help the homeless), to spending unprecedented millions to try to buy this year's election (which didn't work), a battle for Seattle's soul is under way

If the Bezos Balls are Jeff's way of telling us



he's our daddy, well, this next decade will determine who is really in control. JASMYNE KEIMIG

6. Murray, Meinert, and #MeToo.

On April 7 2017 staffers in Mayor Ed Murray's office at City Hall got push notifications on their cell phones from the Seattle Times: "Lawsuit alleges Seattle Mayor Ed Murray sexually abused troubled teen in the 1980s." Murray "vehemently" denied it, arguing that it was a politically motivated hit job. But more accusers kept coming forward. Three months later, the Seattle Times published a story based on newly unsealed documents from the State of Oregon, with the headline: "Se attle mayor sexually abused foster son, child welfare investigator found in 1984."

That story—which brought the list of accusers to four—was "the precise moment" when staffers in the mayor's office "lost faith in the possibility of Murray's innocence," Eli Sanders later reported in The Stranger. "There was just no doubt," one staffer told Sanders. "It was 100 percent, this happened. Once I saw those Oregon documents, then it all just snapped together. I was like, 'Yep, I believe every last accuser now'... That was the turning point. That article."

Murray had already scrapped his plans to run for a second term, but he hoped to finish out his first term. Then, on September 12, the $Seattle\ Times$ published the story that ended Murray's political career: "A younger cousin of Seattle Mayor Ed Murray on Tuesday became the fifth man to publicly accuse the mayor of sexual abuse, saving Murray repeatedly molested him as a teenager in the 1970s." Murray's staff forced him to resign that day. City council president Bruce Harrell became mayor for five days, then Tim Burgess became interim mayor, and then Jenny Durkan won the general election and assumed office immediately—which is how Seattle had four mayors in one year.

The rape allegations about Harvey Weinstein broke shortly after Murray resigned, opening the floodgates of #MeToo. Powerful men throughout politics, entertainment, and other industries were finally being held to account for sexual assault.

Shortly thereafter, a source I have known for years told me that Dave Meinert, a prominent figure in the Seattle nightlife industry $raped\,her\,in\,2001.\,I\,believed\,her\,immediately$ and asked if The Stranger could report on it.

She agreed on condition of anonymity, and said she knew of other women who had stories about Meinert, who also wanted to remain anonymous. I informed the publisher and the editorial director of The Stranger of the allegations, we consulted a lawyer about the legal risks of using anonymous accusations, and in January 2018 we assigned the Meinert story to staff writer Sydney Brownstone, who had won awards for her reporting on a previous rape case.

As with the Murray case, the new revelations about Meinert came out not in a court-

room but in the media. Brownstone reported the story for several months in The Stranger's newsroom, but was hired as an editor at KUOW while she was working on it. KUOW published Brownstone's reporting in July 2018. In a radio interview, Meinert denied the allegations, but was notably unable to define sexual assault. He also admitted, "The #MeToo movement has pointed out how widespread and grotesque of a situation we



Legal weed growing at Puffin Farm by

have with how men have treated women for thousands of years, and that includes me?

the Yakima River.

At the time, Meinert was managing the Lumineers, but in response to the story, the band quickly severed ties. Meinert's business partners at Comet Tavern, Lost Lake, Grim's, and Queer Bar kicked him out of the ownership structure of those establishments, and even barred him from entering the premises. Meinert still owns the 5 Point Cafe in Belltown and the Mecca Cafe in Lower Queen Anne, which is why I don't go to the 5 Point or the Mecca anymore. CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

5. Seattle cop shoots and kills John T. Williams.

No police story defines the decade more than what happened on August 10, 2010, the date officer Ian Birk shot and killed John T. Williams in downtown Seattle, setting off a decade of dramatic police reform. Williams, 50, a seventh-generation Native American woodcarver, was hard of hearing. Birk saw Williams cross Boren Avenue carrying a scrap of wood and a pocketknife, got out of his car with his gun raised, and yelled at Williams to put the knife down. Birk opened fire only five seconds later.

The Seattle Police Department's internal review ruled the shooting "unjustified and outside of policy," but Birk was not criminally charged because state law required prosecutors to prove cops acted "with malice." Outrage over the lack of charges led to the approval eight years later of Initiative 940, which removed the word "malice" from state law. making it easier to charge cops with murder.

Williams's killing also led to the Department of Justice suing the City of Seattle for using excessive force. Instead of facing the lawsuit in court, the city agreed to a settlement that required new police accountability measures, better tracking of use-of-force incidents, and a new Community Police Commission to help watch the cops. Plenty







of police reform work still needs to be done, especially as it relates to police union power, but much of the progress so far is owed to the life and death of John T. Williams. LESTER BLACK

4. Sawant brings socialist uprising to Seattle City Hall.

Over the last decade, Amazon and other tech companies have remade Seattle in their image. But at the same time, an army of red shirts led by an econ professor from Mumbai has risen up to check the growing power of those companies, and to give a bullhorn to Seattleites struggling to find shelter and a decently priced sandwich in the blast radius of the latest tech boom.

It started in 2012, when Kshama Sawant, an Occupy organizer and a member of the party Socialist Alternative, ran unsuccessful campaigns against two popular state lawmakers. Though she lost those battles, her name recognition shot through the roof. and her strident support for raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, implementing rent control, and taxing the rich became defining planks in the progressive platform.

In a stunning come-from-behind victory the following year, Sawant beat four-term Seattle City Council member Bichard Conlin to become the first socialist elected to office in Seattle in nearly a century. In 2019, despite a massive influx of cash from big businesses such as Amazon, she organized another come-from-behind victory to become the senior member on the most progressive council in recent memory. Not only has she helped win the minimum-wage increase and several renters protections while in office, she's also blasted open the Overton window, allowing other council members to advocate for more lefty policy, and calling them out on their bullshit when they don't. RICH SMITH

3. Weed goes legal.

Up until 2012, someone was arrested for a weed-related charge in Washington State every 50 minutes. Most of them were people of color, even though a white guv doing bong rips is Seattle's official mascot. Washington voters realized something not even Joe Biden has realized yet—that legalization was the only way to end the racist war on drugs—and decided to act.

When Washington voters legalized weed in 2012, our state was the first government in modern history to legalize the recreational consumption of pot. (It's not even legal in Amsterdam; it's decriminalized there.) Any adult in the state could now light up, inhale, and rest easy knowing the cops couldn't do a thing.

Washington State's first legal pot shops were up and running by July of 2014. Granted, those heady first months included skyhigh prices (\$40 for two joints!) and stores frequently running out of weed, but the market quickly settled, and adults 21 and older now have access to incredibly cheap weed (\$50 ounces!), not to mention pot lube, weed suppositories, and 500-gram rocks of pure THC that look like crack. Well over \$5 billion in weed has been sold since, according to 502data.com, and more than \$1 billion in tax revenue has been collected by the state.

Legalization was sold to voters as a way to end the racist war on drugs, but very little legal pot revenue has gone to the communities of color that were most harmed by prohibition—only 1 percent of companies that create pot products are owned by Black people, according to state estimates. However, that might start to change as state lawmakers get more serious about cannabis equity laws.

2. Light rail transforms Seattle into an actual city.

Seattle's transportation system 15 years ago consisted mainly of buses stalled in intersections, taxi drivers who wouldn't

accept credit cards, and hipsters flipping off the world on fixed-gear bikes (and often flipping themselves over their own handlebars in the process).

True mass transit came to the city when Sound Transit opened Link light rail's first 14mile segment in 2009. stretching from Tukwila to Westlake Park downtown. Sure, it was three years and \$1.1 billion over budget, but that's just how we do things around here. Fewer than 15,000 people took

the train a day (the airport wasn't even connected to the system yet).

Things got less embarrassing on March 19. 2016, when Sound Transit opened the Capitol Hill and University of Washington light rail stations—a momentous event in Seattle's transit history. We finally had the beginnings

of an actual mass transit system. Light rail now extended more than 18 miles. Within a month of the Capitol Hill and UW stations opening, ridership nearly doubled—from 35.000 to nearly 60.000 riders per weekday. At the end of 2019, more than 80,000 people on average use the Link light rail system.

The light rail route will extend to Northgate in 2021—and by 2024, nearly 50 miles of light rail lines will be open, stretching east to Bellevue and Redmond, south to Kent and Des Moines, and north to Lynnwood. LESTER BLACK

1. Women start marrying women, and men start marrying goats.

The day before Valentine's Day 2012, Washington governor Christine Gregoire signed a landmark bill legalizing same-sex marriage. It would be a full three years before the US Supreme Court would get around to making marriage equality legal nationwide, and it would be 10 months before the first gay marriages locally could occur. That's because conservatives immediately forced Washington's new law to be put on hold while Referendum 74, an effort to repeal same-sex marriage via popular vote, was considered and, ultimately, shot down.

On December 9, 2012, the day the first legal gay marriages took place in Washington, an historic party began. I was at the King County Administration Building, watching as a long line of people—led by a lesbian couple who had been together 35 years—received their marriage licenses. Strangers handed out roses and threw confetti. Couples cried, and laughed, and thanked the elected officials and local bureaucrats who seemed as excited as they were to see this day finally arrive. It was a party for same-sex couples in Seattle thrown by the entire city.

The King County Administration Building was a fitting epicenter for this celebration because it was there, in 1974, that a gay man named John Singer attempted to get a marriage license for himself and his partner. was rejected, and then launched one of the first gay marriage lawsuits ever attempted in the United States It was unsuccessful and Singer, who became better known by his preferred name, Faygele ben Miriam, died

> more than a decade before Washington State voters declared gav marriage's legality in 2012

> Interesting historical footnote: The King County auditor who denied Singer a marriage license in 1974, Llovd Hara, went on to be elected as a port commissioner and the county assessor. But he also wound up walking his lesbian daughter down the aisle in a Vermont wedding around the same time legal gay marriage was



Many readers were mad about this hilarious cover in 2012.

becoming a reality here. As they say, things change-and some stay pretty much the same. The Stranger celebrated the arrival of Washington's first legal same-sex weddings with a cover photograph showing a man marrving a goat and the text "WELCOME, GAY MARRIAGE!" ELI SANDERS









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Free Will Astrology BY ROB BRF7SNY

December 18-24

ARIES (March 21–April 19): The English word "hubris" means prideful, exaggerated self-assurance. In the HBO TV series Rome, the Roman politician and general Mark Antony says to his boss Julius Caesar, "I'm glad you're so confident. Some would call it hubris." Caesar has a snappy comeback: "It's only hubris if I fail." I'm tempted to dare you to use that as one of your mottoes in 2020, Aries. I have a rather expansive vision of your capacity to accomplish great things during the coming months. And I also think that one key to your triumphs and breakthroughs will be your determination to cultivate a well-honed aplomb, even audacity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For years, I've lived in a house bordering TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For years, I've lived in a house bordering a wetland, and I've come to love that ecosystem more than any other. While communing with reeds and herons and muddy water, my favorite poet has been Taurus-born Lorine Niedecker, who wrote about marshes with supreme artistry. Until the age of 60, her poetic output was less than abundant because she had to earn a meager living by cleaning hospital floors. Then, due to a fortuitous shift in circumstances, she was able to leave that job and devote more time to what she loved most and did best. With Niedecker's breakthrough as our inspiration, I propose that we do all we can, you and I, as we conspire to make 2020 the year you devote more time to the activity that you love most and do best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the English language, the prefix "re' comes at the beginning of many words with potent transformational meaning: reinvent, redeem, rediscover, release, relieve, redesign, resurrect, rearrange, reconstruct, reform, reanimate, reawaken, regain. I hope you'll put words like those at the top of your priority list in 2020. If you hope to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents, it will be a year of revival, realignment, and restoration.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I won't be surprised if you're enamored and CANCER (June 21-July 22): I won't be surprised if you're enamored and amorous more than usual in 2020. I suspect you will experience delight and enchantment at an elevated rate. The intensity and depth of the feelings that flow through you may break all your previous records. Is that going to be a problem? I suppose it could be if you worry that the profuse flows of tenderness and affection will render you weak and vulnerable. But if you're willing and eager to interpret your extra sensitivity as a superpower, that's probably what it will be.

as a superpower, that's probably what it will be.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22): Does the word "spirit" mean anything to you?
Or are you numb to it? Has it come to seem virtually meaningless—a foggy abstraction used carelessly by millions of people to express sentimental beliefs and avoid clear thinking? In accordance with the astrological omens, I'll ask you to create a sturdier and more vigorous definition of "spirit" for your practical use in 2020. For instance, you might decide that "spirit" refers to the life force that launches you out of bed each morning and motivates you to keep transforming yourself into the ever more beautiful soul you want to become.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22): "There are people who take the heart out of you, and there are people who put it back," wrote author Charles de Lint. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your heart will encounter far more of the former than the latter types of people in 2020. There may be one wrangler who tries to take the heart out of you, but there will be an array of nurturers who will strive to keep the heart in you—as well as boosters and builders who will add even

citizen, but later in life became a French citizen, and still later took on American citizenship. If you have had any similar predilections, Libra, I'm guessing they won't be in play during 2020. My prediction is that you will develop a more robust sense of where you belong than ever before. Any uncertainties you'd had about where you true power spot lies will dissipate. Questions you've harbored about the nature of home will be answered. With flair and satisfaction, you'll resolve long-running riddles about home and community.

about home and community.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): "Friendship is a very taxing and arduous form of leisure activity," wrote philosopher and educator Mortimer Adler. He was exaggerating a bit for comic effect, but he was basically correct. We all must mobilize a great deal of intelligence and hard work to initiate new friendships and maintain existing friendships. But I have some very good news about how these activities will play out for you in 2020, Scorpio. I expect that your knack for practicing the art of friendship will be at an all-time high. I also believe that your close alliances will be especially gratifying and useful for you. You'll be well-rewarded for your skill and care at cultivating rapport.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): In 1933, Sagittarian artist Diego Ri rear was commissioned to paint a huge mural in one of the famous Rockefeller buildings in New York City. His patrons didn't realize he was planning to include a controversial portrait of former Soviet Communist leader Vladimir Lenin. When the deed was done, they ordered him to remove the portrait. When he refused, they ushered him out and destroyed the whole mural. As a result, Rivera lost another commission destroyed the whole mural. As a result, kiwera lost another commission to create art at the Chicago World's Fair. In any other year, Sagittarius, I might encourage you to be as idealistic as Rivera. I'd invite you to place artistic integrity over financial considerations. But I'm less inclined to advise that in 2020. I think it may serve you to be unusually pragmatic. At least consider leaving Lenin out of your murals.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22–Jan 19): "People mistake their lin high standards," wrote Capricorn author Jean Toomer. In my high standards," wrote Capricorn author Jean Toomer. In my astrological opinion, it's crucial that you avoid doing that in 2020. Why? First, I'm quite sure that you will have considerable power to shed and transcend at least some of your limitations. For best results, you can't afford to deceive yourself into thinking that those limitations are high standards. Secondly, Capricorn, you will have good reasons and a substantial ability to raise your standards higher than they've ever been. So you definitely don't want to confuse high standards with limitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Historians once thought that 14th-century Englishmen were the first humans to track the rhythms of the planet Jupiter using the complicated mathematics known as calculus. But in 2015, researchers discovered that Babylonians had done it 1,400 years before the Englishmen. Why was Jupiter's behavior so important to those ancient people? They were astrologers! They believed the planet's movements were correlated with practical events on earth, like the weather, river levels, and grain harvests. I think that this correction in the origin to the post process the post process of the process of t the origin story of tracking Jupiter's rhythms will be a useful metaphor for you in 2020. It's likely you will come to understand your past in ways that are different from what you've believed up until now. Your

PISCES (Feb 19–March 20): China produces the most apples in the world. The United States is second. That wasn't always true. When Europeans first reached the shores of the New World, crab apple was the only apple species that grew natively. But the invaders planted other varieties that they brought with them. They also imported the key to all future proliferation: honeybees, champion pollinators, which were previously absent from the land that many indigenous people called Turtle Island. Isee 2020 as a time for you to accomplish the equivalent, in your own sphere, of getting the pollination you need. What are the fertilizing influences that will help you accomplish your goals?

Homework: Start dreaming about who you can be in 2020. Find my long-range audio horoscopes at realastrology.com.

December 25-31

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Nazi Germany invaded and occupied Denark during World War II. In 1943, Hitler ordered all Danish Jews to be arrested—a first step in his plan to send them to concentration camps. But the Danish resistance movement leapt into action and smuggled virtually all of them to safety via fishing boats bound for Sweden. As a result, 8,000+ Danish Jews survived the Holocaust. You may not have the opportunity to do anything quite as heroic in 2020, Aries. But I do expect you will have chances to express a high order of practical idealism that could be among your noblest and most valiant efforts ever. Draw inspiration from the Danish resistance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When she was 31, Taurus writer Charlotte TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When she was 31, Taurus writer Charlotte Brontë finished writing her novel Jane Eyre. She guessed it would have a better chance of getting published if its author was thought to be a man. So she adopted the masculine pen name of Currer Bell and sent he manuscript unsolicited to a London publisher. Less than eight weeks later, her new book was in print. It quickly became a commercial success. I propose that we make Brontë one of your role models for 2020, Taurus. May she inspire you to be audacious in expressing yourself and confident in seeking the help you need to reach your goals. May she embolden you, too, to use ingenious stratagems to support your righteous cause.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I think 2020 could be one of your most GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I think 2020 could be one of your most poetic and lyrical years ever. Is that something you would enjoy? If so, I authorize you to seek out encounters with the following enchantments: (1) Truth Whimsies. (2) Curiosity Breakthroughs. (3) Delight Gambles. (4) Sacred Amusements. (5) Redemptive Synchronicities. (6) Miraculous Ripenings. (7) Antidote Discoveries. (8) Epiphany Tales. (9) Genius Games. (10) Catalytic Descents. (11) Garden Romps. (12) Beauty Eruptions. (13) Intimacy Angels. (14) Luscious Cherny Feelings. (15) Daydream Festivals. (16) Playful Salvation. (17) Luminosity Spells.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): "There are years that ask questions years that answer," wrote author Zora Neale Hurston. According t satrological analysis, Cancerian, 2020 is likely to be one of those years that asks questions, while 2021 will be a time when you'll get rich and that asks questions, while 2021 will be a time when you'll get rich and meaningful answers to the queries you'll pose in 2020. To ensure that this plan works out for your maximum benefit, it's essential that you formulate provocative questions in the coming months. At first, it's fine if you generate too many. As the year progresses, you can whittle them down to the most ultimate and important questions. Get started!

them down to the most ultimate and important questions. Get started!

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): The Roman emperor Vespasian (9-79 AD) superised the restoration of the Temple of Peace, the Temple of Claudius, and the Theater of Marcellus. He also built a huge statue of Apollo and the amphitheater now known as the Colosseum, whose magnificent ruins are still a major tourist attraction. Vespasian also created a less majestic but quite practical wonder: Rome's first public urinals. In accordance with the astrological omens, I invite you Leos to be stimulated by his example in 2020. Be your usual magnificent self as you generate both inspiring beauty and pragmatic improvements.

years old, she had a disconcerting dreamlike vision about a mad chemist who created a weird humanlike creature out of nonliving matter. She set about to write a book based on her dream. At age 20, she published Frankenstein, a novel that would ultimately wield a huge cultural influence and become a seminal work in the "science fiction" genre. I propose we make Shelley one of your role models for 2020. Why? Because I suspect that you, too, will have the power to transform a challenging event or influence into an important asset. You'll be able to generate or attract a new source of energy by responding creatively the experiences. attract a new source of energy by responding creatively to experiences that initially provoked anxiety.

wrote that he searched for holy sustenance and divine inspiration in temples, churches, and mosques—but couldn't find them there. The good news? Because of his disappointment, he was motivated to go on an inner quest—and ultimately found holy sustenance and divine inspiration in his own heart. I've got a strong feeling that you'll have similar experiences in 2020, Libra. Not on every occasion, but much of the time, you will discover the treasure you need and long for not in the outside world but rather in your own depths.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Among his many accomplishments, Scorpic SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Among his many accomplishments, Scorpio rapper Drake is an inventive rhymer. In his song "Diplomatic Immunity," he rhymes "sacred temple" with "stencil." Brilliant! Other rhymes: "statistics" with "ballistics," "Treaty of Versailles" with "no cease and desist in I," and—my favorite—"Al Jazeera" (the Qatar-based news source) with "Shakira" (the Colombian singer). According to my analysis of the astrological omens in 2020, many of you Scorpios will have Drake-style skill at mixing and blending seemingly disparate elements. I bet you'll also be good at connecting influences that belong together but have never been able to compile hefore never been able to combine before

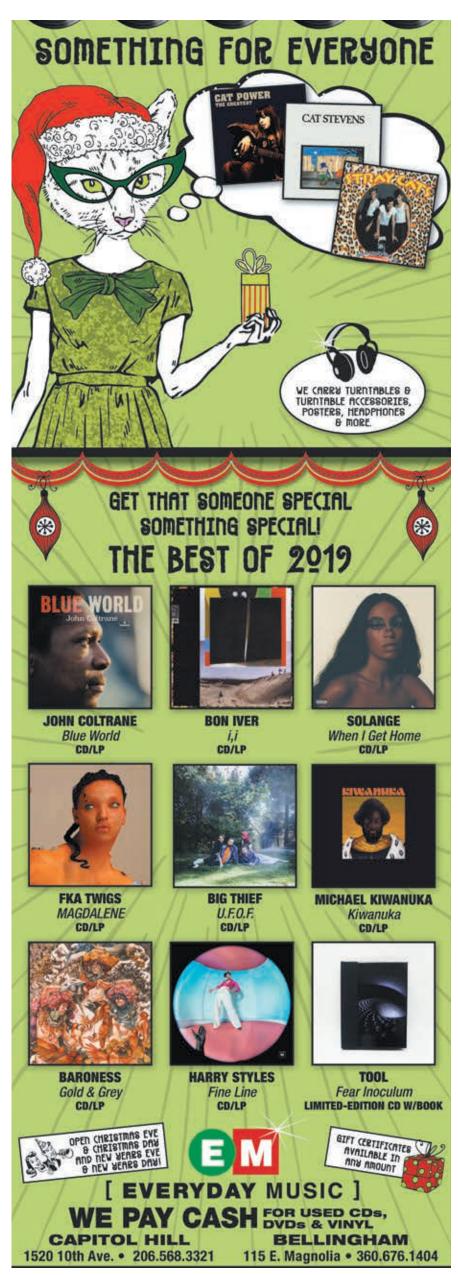
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Sagittarian poet Rainer Maria Rilke SAGITARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Sagittarian poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) embodied a trait that many astrology textbooks suggest is common to the Sagittarian tribe: wanderlust. He was born in Prague but traveled widely throughout Europe and Russia. If there were a Guinness World Records' category for "Time Spent as a Houseguest," Rilke might hold it. There was a four-year period when he lived at 50 different addresses. I'm going to be bold here and hypothesize that 2020 will NOT be one of those years when you would benefit from being like Rilke. In fact, I hope you'll seek out more stability and security than usual.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Fifteenth-century Italian metalworke rti worked for 28 years to turn the doors of the Florence Baptistery into a massive work of art. He used bronze to create numerous scenes from the Bible. His fellow artist Michelangelo was so impressed that he said Ghiberti's doors could have served as "the gates of paradise." I offer Ghiberti as inspiration for your life in 2020, Capricorn. I think you'll be capable of beginning a masterwork that could take quite some time to complete and serve as your very own "gate to paradise"— in other words, an engaging project and delightful accomplishment that will make you feel your life is eminently meaningful and worthwhile.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): You're wise to cultivate a degree of skepticism and even contrariness. Like all of us, your abilities to say no to detrimental influences and criticize bad things are key to your mental health. On the other hand, it's a smart idea to keep checking yourself for irrelevant, gratuitous skepticism and contrariness. You have a sacred ain just the amount you need, but no more—even as you foster a vigorous reservoir of receptivity, optimism, and generosity. And guess what? The year 2020 will be an excellent time to make this one

PISCES (Feb 19–March 20): Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) finishe writing *The Divine Comedy* in 1320. Today it's considered one of th supreme literary accomplishments in the Italian language and a classi of world literature. But no one ever read the entire work in the Englis language until 1802, when it was translated for the first time. Let invoke this as a metaphor for your life in the coming months, Pisces According to my visions, a resource or influence that has previousl been inaccessible to you will finally arrive in a form you can understand and use. Some wisdom that has been untranslatable or unreadable will at last be available.

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Cannabis was illegal for a century. It only took a decade to change that.

Pot Had Its Best Decade Ever

eople have interacted with pot for at least 7,000 years, but there's no decade in that stretch that has been better for cannabis than the one we're currently finishing. Pot went from being widely illegal and politically toxic to being a plant that is easily available to millions of adults across the country.

Pot had a really, really good decade.

Pot won by every possible metric, especially its legal status in the United States. In 2009, only 14 states had medical access to pot. Ten years later, an incredible 35 states have medical cannabis in some form, and 11 more (plus the District of Columbia) legalized recreational pot. Only Nebraska, Idaho, Kansas, and South Dakota have no

Public opinion shifted nearly as dramatically as those state laws. Only 44 percent of people supported pot legalization in 2009, while 54 percent opposed it, according to the Pew Research Center, A 2019 Pew poll shows the numbers flipped: Only 32 percent of people said pot should be illegal, while 67percent support legalization.

Politicians have also shifted their views on pot. This year's Democratic presidential hopefuls—including Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Cory Booker, Andrew Yang, and Pete Buttigieg—are overwhelmingly in favor of legalization. Even lukewarm centrist Amy Klobuchar supports legalizing pot. Joe Biden is the only candidate against it, $although \, he \, does \, support \, decriminalization.$

And even Biden's stance is a remarkable shift from where we were at the beginning of this decade. In the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, essentially every candidate—including Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama $opposed\ even\ the\ decriminalization\ of\ pot.$

So who can we thank for turning pot from widely reviled to widely accepted? George Soros and a few of his friends (Progressive Insurance founder Peter Lewis, University of Phoenix founder John Sperling, and Men's Wearhouse founder George Zimmer), who spent more than \$70 million bankrolling medical and legalization initiatives for 20-plus years.

According to Jonathan Caulkins, a Carne $gie\,Mellon\,professor\,and\,one\,of\,the\,country's$ leading experts on drug policy, "The sim $plest\ explanation\ of\ why\ marijuana\ reform$ happened is that three billionaires decided it should happen and they bankrolled the process for many, many years."

It also doesn't hurt that pot reform appeals to a wide spectrum of political beliefs, from libertarians who want the government out of their business to progressives who want to end the racist war on drugs.

Yeshiya University law professor Ekow Yankah says this is why pot reform is winning. "The core of my argument is that philosophy matters. If you find something where there are a bunch of views that all coalesce around one philosophical position... it makes it much harder to keep it at bay," Yankah told me.

I think both Yankah and Caulkins are correct—it's a powerful position when your argument is well-supported theoretically as well as having millions of dollars in support from the ultra-wealthy. But there's one other key aspect that we can't forget when we're talking about the legalization of pot: the plant itself.

Cannabis is incredible. It's one of the oldest crops grown by humans, possibly the oldest medicine our species has ever used. It has a shockingly wide number of varietals $think\,about\,every\,different\,type\,of\,apple\,you$ have ever seen and multiply that tenfold, and you won't be close to the different types of cannabis that exist. It can be made into clothing, buildings, nutritious food, medicine, and a recreational intoxicant. And in a $very\,strange\,turn\,of\,events\,100\,years\,ago, the$ American government decided it was sinful and thus convinced the world to outlaw it. just as scientists were beginning to better understand its powers.

Luckily, it only took a decade to reverse this century-long travesty. The next decade will only prove that we should have normalized cannabis sooner. \blacksquare





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Savage Love BY DAN SAVAGE

Bloody Business

I am a 60-year-old heterosexual man, and I am being told that I'm normal. I have been to several urologists, and they say I have no medical issues. But I'm having a hard time buying it, because for the last six months, my ejaculate has been extremely bloody. $This\ is\ embarrassing,\ especially\ since\ or al$ sex—giving and receiving—has always been $my\ favorite.\ The\ urologists'\ explanation\ is$ that as you get older, there are blood vessels $\,$ within the penis that can break during

 $an\,erection.\,They\,gave\,me\,some\,pills\,to$ $ensure there \, was \, no \, in fection, \, but \, then \,$ they told me that I'll probably have to use condoms for the rest of my life. My $partner\,doesn't\,need\,contrace ptives, so$ we haven't used condoms for decades. If I were bleeding out of any other orifice, there would be a team of doctors helping me. Is there really no hope? Tell Me It Ain't So

"Hematospermia—blood in the ejaculate-is usually not considered a big deal, in the sense that the vast majority of the time it's not a sign of cancer," said Dr. Ashley Winter, a board-certified urologist, the cohost of The Full Release podcast, and my go-to expert on all blood-in-spunk-related matters. "I'd want to know how much he's actually bleeding and what they've done to check him out. But that said sometimes a guy with a large prostate will bleed with orgasm."

For everyone out there panicking because they saw blood in their semen one time a decade ago, Dr. Winter says a one-off bloody load isn't something to worry about. But if you saw blood in your semen that one time and you have health insurance and you're a hypochondriac like me. Dr. Winter recommends a visit to a doc for a short consultation and a quick physical exam.

"But in a case like TMIAS's, where the issue is ongoing and the subject is over 55," said Dr. Winter, "a typical evaluation would include a PSA blood test (a prostate cancer screening test), as well as testing for STIs (such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, and herpes), along with a urinalysis to check for blood in the urine and urinary infections. If those tests were not revealing, I would consider doing an ultrasound or MRI of the prostate and surrounding organs, as well as putting a camera up the urethra (called cystoscopy) to check out the plumbing."

Assuming you've had all those tests, and your prostate was present on photo day, and the doctors found no sign of cancer or infection, TMIAS, then what the hell is going on?

'Typically, the cause would be something such as dilated blood vessels along the ejaculate exit route," aka the urethra. Quickly: The urethra is a tube that connects the outside world (and all those piss bottoms) to your bladder; it's the tube we all piss through. In males, the urethra pulls double duty, men also eiaculate through it (and some women $do, too!) - it\, runs\, through\, the\, prostate\, gland,$

a gland that produces about a third of the seminal fluid. An enlarged prostate squeezes the urethra, which can make urination difficult and uncomfortable, and can also result in-vou guessed it-blood in the semen.

One possible "fix" for an enlarged prostate is a transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP), which basically amounts to "a 'rotorootering' of the prostate," as Dr. Winter so vividly put it. A doctor shoves something called a resectoscope up your urethra and slices away chunks of prostate tissue.

"The problem with these procedures is



that they can cause a person to stop ejaculating at all," said Dr. Winter. "So if TMIAS has already had a fairly robust evaluation, then either using condoms or just having his sex partner adapt to the presence of blood may be the best solution. And in the absence of an infection, shooting a bloody load into your partner is not dangerous. Plenty of couples have intercourse during menstruation without harm"

But hold on and back up and wait just a goddamned minute: Didn't your doctors say everything looked normal? Doesn't that mean your prostate isn't enlarged?

"A 'normal' prostate generally means that it is not cancerous and normal in size for your age," said Dr. Winter. "As you get older, your prostate gets bigger. So it's highly probable that what TMIAS has is a bigass-but-normal-for-his-age prostate. And bigger prostates tend to have larger blood vessels lining the urethra and are therefore more likely to bleed when a man experiences those lovely contractions associated with orgasm. When TMIAS was told that 'there are blood vessels within the penis that can break,' I suspect his doc was referring to this and was trying to simplify the explanation."

And while the presence of blood in your ejaculate may not be normal or ideal, TMIAS, it's likely your normal, and there's nothing your doctor—or a team of them—can

"Sometimes a lack of a 'fix' is not dismissiveness, it's just an admittance that a lot of things medical folks do/offer aren't perfect," said Dr. Winter.

Follow Dr. Ashley Winter on Twitter

@AshleyGWinter, and check out The Full Release podcast, which she cohosts with comedian Mo Mandel, at the full release pod.com.

I'm a woman with a dating profile on Ok-Cupid that states I'm nonmonogamous and only looking for the same. Recently, I had two great dates with a guy who described himself $as\ monogamous\ on\ his\ profile.\ However,\ after$ $our {\it first date and a lot of messaging, I intuited}$ that he hadn't actually read the fine print on my profile. Usually guys bring up nonmonogamy when they've read it, and he hadn't men-

> tioned it once. So I brought it up at the end of our second date when we were having post-dinner drinks at a bar. In retrospect, I should have set up a time to seriously discuss this, not spring it $on \, him \, while \, we \, were \, drinking, \, but \, If elt$ like the longer it went unsaid, the more "betrayed" he might feel. And boy, did he have a reaction. He went from "This is not a deal breaker" to "Oh my god, Ican't do this, I should just go" in 20 minutes, and then rushed out of the bar. We cleared the air the next day, and he apologized for being a jerk and bailing. But clearly we're not going to be dating going forward. Maybe this was always how a guy like him was going to react, but when is the right time to bring nonmonogamy up if you meet someone in real life first? Or if it's clear someone didn't read the damn fine print on your profile before jumping straight to infatuation?

He claimed his meltdown was an emotional $response\ to\ the\ conflict\ he\ was\ feeling\ between$ (a) the expectation that serious relationships need to lead to monogamy and (b) the great $time\ he\ was\ having\ with\ someone\ who\ turned$ out to be (gasp) nonmonogamous. Was there a better way to have shared this information? A time sooner or later? We were really clicking, so his freak-out was a huge surprise.

Read The Fine Print

Dude should have read the fine print on your profile. He should have done his screw diligence—but you should have done yours, too. Or followed through with yours. You read the fine print on his profile, RTFP, you knew he described himself as monogamous, but you went on a date with him anyway—you went on two dates and swapped a lot of messag $es-without\, stopping\, to\, ask\, him\, the\, dreaded$ direct question (DDQ): "My profile says I'm nonmonogamous and only looking for the same, and yours says you're monogamous. Are you making an exception for me because I'm amazing or did you not read my whole profile?" You should have asked this guy the ${\tt DDQ}\,not\,to\,spare\,him\,the\,horror\,of\,your\,com$ pany and avoid wasting his time. RTFP, but to spare yourself that stupid scene in the bar and avoid wasting your time. \blacksquare

> mail@savagelove.net@fakedansavage on Twitter ITMFA ora

ON THE LOVECAST

Erika Moen's sex tou gift recs: savagelovecast.com.















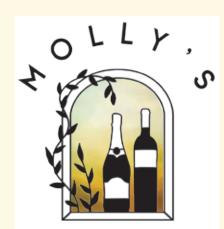
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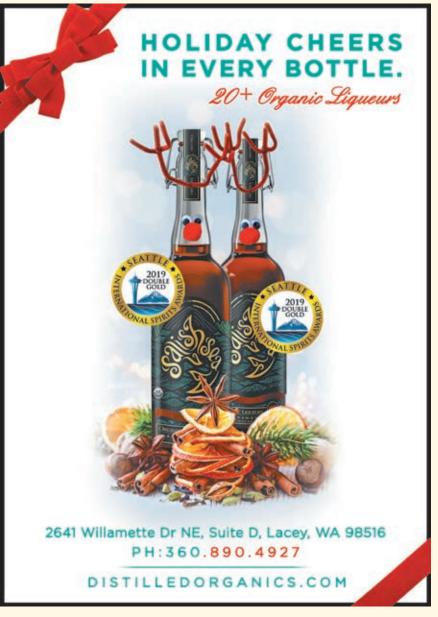
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SheshBesh

Saturday, January 18, 2020 | 7:30 pm | \$19-\$49 6:00 pm | FREE Pre-Show Artist Talk

An Arab-Jewish ensemble searching for an elusive balance of East and West in music, SheshBesh embodies two cultures living together in harmony. Three members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra play alongside four of the finest musicians from Israel's Arab community.

Pre-show Talk: SheshBesh was awarded the European Medal of Honor for commitment to tolerance and mutual respect in a turbulent Middle East. In this pre-show program, the artists will speak to a model of two cultures living together in harmony, and the belief that music can build bridges between people.

Hiplet Ballerinas

Thursday, February 20, 2020 | 7:30 pm | \$19-\$39 6:00 pm | FREE Pre-Show Artist Talk

Designed to make ballet accessible to all, Hiplet™ is a fusion between classical pointe technique, hip-hop, and urban dance styles. After going viral on Homer Bryant's Instagram in 2016, Hiplet™ has received recognition worldwide, with appearances in Germany, France, Spain, South Korea, and Hong Kong. Pre-show Talk: In this pre-show program, the artists will address the origin of the Hiplet™ technique, why and how they blend hip-hop and ballet, and the company's commitment to inclusion.

Bourbon, Eggnog, and Crying **Inconsolably on Christmas**

A Q&A with BenDeLaCreme and Jinkx Monsoon about their show All I Want for Christmas Is Attention.

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

enDeLaCreme and Jinkx Monsoon are like peanut butter and jelly. They're like bacon and eggs. They're two great tastes that taste great together. Though they were not on the same season of RuPaul's Drag Race, they were on back-to-back seasons, a one-

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ATTENTION

two punch of perfect comic timing, stunning looks, and eccentric Seattle energy. Jinkx won her season, DeLa

was robbed on hers, but the world was in love (And DeLa's return to the show on All Stars 3—featuring the "gag of the century," with a generous assist from a bottle of White-Out-was the most talked-about All Stars performance ever.)

The two have appeared together on Seattle stages so many times that it would be ridiculous to list them. They are drag sisters, and BFFs. Last year, they started a new tradition, and unlike most December traditions, it's one I can really get behind: a joint holiday show. Just Jinkx and DeLa. do $ing\,Jinkx\hbox{--}y, DeLa\hbox{--}ish\,things.\,Last\,year, it\,was$ ${\it called}\ {\it To}\ {\it Jesus}, {\it Thanks}\ {\it for}\ {\it Everything!}\ {\it Jinkx}$ and DeLa. This year it's called All I Want for Christmas Is Attention

There will be singing. There will be dancing. There will be looks. There will be jokes and jabs and verbal jousting. There will be... okay, look, I don't know what there will be, because I've never seen this show before. But I can tell you it's selling out like crazy. Last I checked, they had just added a 3 p.m. Sunday show on December 22 to try to appease their ravenous fans.

I caught up with Seattle's most famous drag sisters while they were performing All I Want $for {\it Christmas} {\it Is} {\it Attention} \hbox{ in early December}$ in the United Kingdom, before crossing the pond for tour stops in Boston, Chicago, and New York City, en route to Seattle on December 21. The show runs at the Neptune through December 27 (and then moves on to California). I asked Jinkx and DeLa about the show, $but \,I\,also\,asked\,them\,about\,the\,best\,and\,worst$ presents they've ever received, whether they ever get on each other's nerves, and how they plan to spend Christmas Day.

What's the best present you've ever received?

DELA: Eternal salvation from our lord Jesus Christ, JK, JK, Bourbon.

JINKX: My grandma bought me a Marie



Antoinette wig for a coronation event for the Imperial Court system in Portland. I was $Rosebud\,XXIX, the\,underage\,title\,in\,the\,drag$ community of Portland. It was really special to feel so supported by my grandma and my aunt, helping me be a fearless 16-year-old drag queen! I later painted that wig pink and wore it on Drag Race. So a gift that keeps on giving, and all that sappy BS.

What's the worst present you've ever received?

JINKX: As a very genderfluid and obviously queer child, sometimes family members couldn't decide between getting me what I actually wanted or what would be a socially acceptable gift for a little "boy"—so I got things like trees planted in my name

or a star named after me. I appreciated the gesture as much as any 6-year-old could but you can't play with a certificate of au-

 $Christmas.\ Ben De La Creme\ plans\ to\ drink\ eggnog.$

DELA: When I was a kid, ALL I wanted were My Little Ponies and Jem and the Holograms dolls, which made a lot of the adults in my life feel the need to give me hypermasculine toys. I have a very vivid memory of crying inconsolably while staring in horror at a He-Man action figure. I wasn't even old enough to think it was hot.

If you could have one of Santa's reindeer as a pet, which one would you pick and why?

DELA: Dasher. Because I'm pretty sure he's exactly the same as all the other ones.

JINKX: Cupid? Is Cupid one? 'Cause... I dunno, Cupid.

You're performing All I Want for Christmas Is Attention at the Neptune up to and after Christmas, but not on December 25 itself. How are you going to spend baby Jesus's birthday?

JINKX: Stoned.

DELA: I have a Christmas party every vear for all of the queer showbiz weirdos who perform in Seattle through the holidays. There are so many shows in town, and we all spend a lot of time making Christmas happen for other people, so the 25th is the day we all just drink eggnog and lie on the floor in our pajamas.

Is Home Alone the best Christmas movie of all time, or is it *Die Hard*?

JINKX: If those are my two options, I'd go with Home Alone—the film that instilled in me an unreasonable fear of intruders, but also an unjustified confidence in booby-trapping.

DELA: I can't get down with this twoparty system. I'm voting Gremlins. Gremlins is my Jill Stein.

What's your favorite Christmas

DELA: I really love the one about

JINKX: "Oh Holy Night." The "fall on your knees" bit really speaks to me.

Holidays tend to make people irritable. Do you two ever bicker?

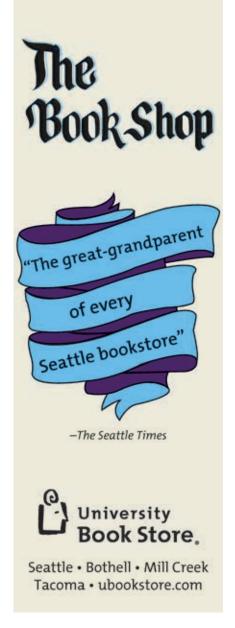
DELA: Any conflicts that arise between us get written into the script. Which is great because then you can resolve them by just writing the other person falling down a flight of stairs or whatever.

JINKX: We don't really bicker. Maybe I'll act cold and passive-aggressive for a moment, and then we'll quickly process our emotions-'cause we're Pacific Northwesterners.

DeLa, you have become a savvy producer over the last few years. What is the hardest thing about being a producer?

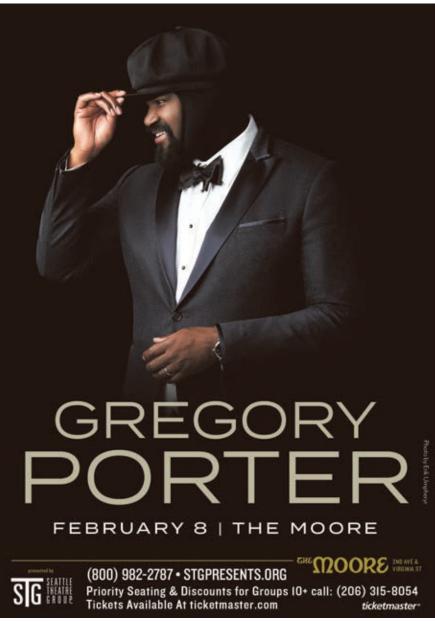
DELA: Being a producer is basically just having a lot of very strong opinions and keeping a lot of balls in the air at the same time. The hardest part is not stooping to puns about balls.

Jinkx, you are famously known as "Seattle's premier narcoleptic Jewish









THINGS $\overline{10}$ DO \rightarrow Performance

drag queen." What does a narcoleptic Jewish gal do on Christmas?

Since giving myself that title, I have moved to San Francisco. I have gotten my narcolepsy symptoms to a manageable place, and I identify as a witch. So I'll just answer this: Get laid.

What can you tell us about All I

Want for Christmas Is Attention?

JINKX: It's everything you didn't know you wanted, and never would have asked for, from a drag-queen holiday show.

DELA: I think this show is a perfect marriage of our true styles. It's got all the fun, glamour, and smarts you've come to expect from me, and all the dick jokes you've come to expect from Jinkx. ■



Top Picks

CLOSING SUN DEC 22



'Shout, Sister, Shout!'

A black queer woman named Rosetta Tharpe invented rock and roll as we know it today. Exuberant and stomping with an electric guitar in hand, her picking and singing influenced the likes of Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, Little Richard, and the list goes on. Born the daughter of two cotton pickers in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, Tharpe rose up through gospel, and became internationally known for fusing rural and urban styles of music in certified bangers such as "Down by the Riverside" and "This Train." Playwright Cheryl L. West offers this dramatic treatment of Gayle F. Wald's biography of the "Godmother of Rock and Roll" in a show that's drawn near universal praise from critics. Get pumped to watch this musical portrait

of a legend. (Seattle Repertory Theatre, \$17-\$80.) RICH SMITH

CLOSING TUES DEC 24

'The Dina Martina Christmas Show'

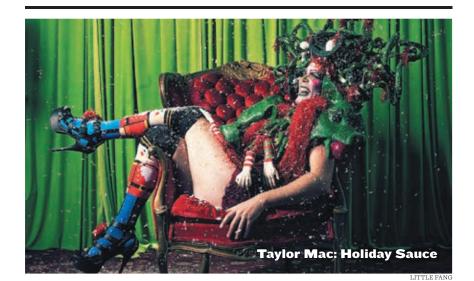
Watching Seattle drag legend Dina Martina perform is a bit like having a Christmastime flu. You will sit there, confused and warm, your thoughts disassociating, a fever addling your brain, while the holiday cheer twinkles all around you. Truly there's no performer who is more like a strong dose of Nyquil than Dina Martina. She is cozy but disorienting. You will laugh without knowing why. Take her with alcohol and double the danger. (ACT Theatre, \$27-\$47.) CHASE BURNS

CLOSING SUN DEC 29

'Jingle All the Gay!'

The new performers are the standouts in Jingle All the Gay! Kitten N' Lou brought in Markeith Wiley and Randy Ford, two breakout dancers/ performance artists who have been having a great couple of years performing around Seattle. Wiley plays the mailman, an important figure in any holiday story, and he's got to deliver lots of big, uh, packages. Ford plays Lil' Fruitcake, a femme voguing fruitcake who fucks shit up in the best way possible. Ford and Wiley's duets are highlights, as are the numbers from Seattle drag artist Abbey Roads, who brings solid musical theater chops and good comic timing. Also in this cast: New York City's Mr. Gorgeous, serving his uniquely tall and hilarious boylesque as the

THINGS \overline{to} DO \rightarrow Performance



Little Drummer Boy. These favorites return, along with the UK's Reuben Kaye, plus Lola van Ella from New Orleans. (Odd Fellows West Hall, 7 pm, \$25-\$40.) **CHASE BURNS**

DEC 19-20

Taylor Mac: 'Holiday Sauce'

MacArthur Grant-winning genius Taylor Mac is an unparalleled playwright and performer. Mac produces shows that are bombastic and colorful, somewhere between drag and cabaret and classical Greek tragedy, with the loudest costumes ever concocted, created by the equally genius designer Machine Dazzle. I'm betting Mac's new music-filled show about "Christmas as calamity" will be the highlight of Seattle's holiday show season. (Moore Theatre, 8 pm, \$47–\$87.) CHASE BURNS

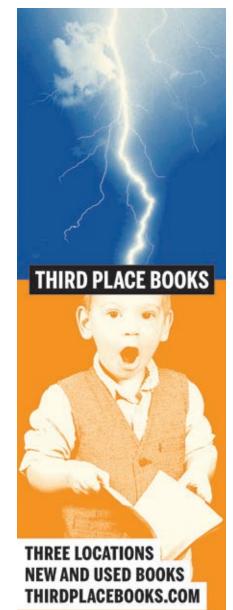
DEC 26-29

Monica Nevi

With a casual delivery, Renton native Monica Levi delivers punch lines that slyly insinuate themselves into uour mind. She thrives on addressing stand-up staples: dating, sex, pot, family dynamics, the pros and cons of various places, and kids (she used to work with them and she assures you that "they're the worst people in the world"). That employment experience convinced Nevi that she doesn't want to have her own children. She recounts: "I took a pregnancy test the other daynot because I was scared, but because I like the feeling when it comes back negative." (Comedu Underground, \$20/\$35.) DAVE SEGAL

TheStranger.com/EverOut





Short List

Andy Haynes Laughs Comedy Club, Dec 20-21, 8 pm, \$15

Be Kind. Rewind: 'Spice World'

Timbre Room, Thurs Dec 26, 9 pm, \$7

Buttcracker V...the Last Thrust!

Erickson Theatre Off Broadway, 7:30 pm, \$22-\$28, through Dec 22

A Christmas Carol ACT Theatre, Tues-Sun, \$37-\$75, through Dec 28

The Christmas Killings at Corgi Cliffs Cafe Nordo, \$95/\$115,

through Dec 29

George Balanchine's 'The Nutcracker' McCaw Hall, \$27-\$189,

through Dec 28 Head Over Heels ArtsWest, Thurs-Sun,

\$42, through Dec 29 Hershey Felder:

Beethoven Seattle Repertory Theatre, Tues-Sun, \$72-\$77, through Dec 22

The Judy Garland Christmas Special Theatre Off Jackson, \$22. through Dec 22

Mrs. Doubtfire

The 5th Avenue Theatre, \$29-\$169, through Jan 4

Never Naughty Rendezvous, Sat Dec 28

9:30 pm, \$10/\$15

Sandbox Radio: Journey's End

Town Hall, Mon Dec 30, 7:30 pm, \$25/\$30

Scott Shoemaker's War on Christmas Re-bar, Thurs-Sun, \$25-\$85, through Dec 22

Sugar Plum Gary 18th & Union, Dec 20-24, \$13-\$22

Uncle Mike Ruins Christmas

Jet City Improv, Fri-Sat, 10 pm, \$17/\$18, through Dec 21

A Very Die Hard Christmas

Seattle Public Theater, Tues-Sun. 7 pm. \$26-\$32, through Dec 29

Voltage!

The Ruins, Dec 20-22, 27-29 & 31, \$65-\$95

Wilfred Padua and Friends

Laughs Comedy Club, Thurs Dec 19, 8:30 pm, \$15/\$20

Early Warnings

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Paramount Theatre, Jan 14-19, \$35-\$95

SHIN LIM Moore Theatre, Wed Jan 15, 7:30 pm, \$53-\$193

HELLO FROM THE MAGIC TAVERN PODCAST Neptune Theatre, Thurs Jan 16, 8 pm, \$29/\$34

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW Moore Theatre, Thurs Jan 16, 8 pm, \$23-\$34

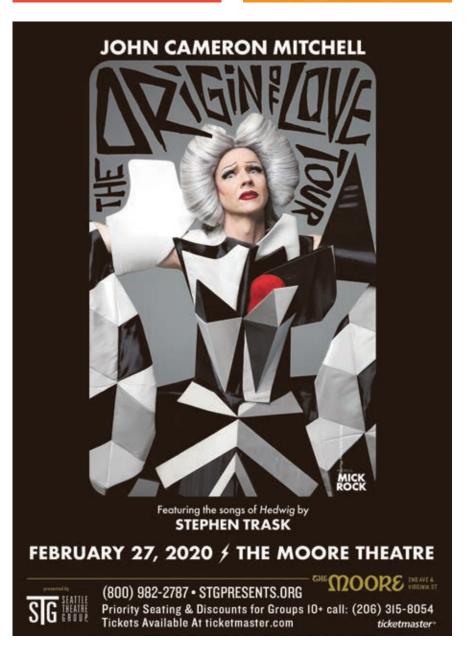
BOHEMIA Triple Door, Jan 16-26, \$26/\$34

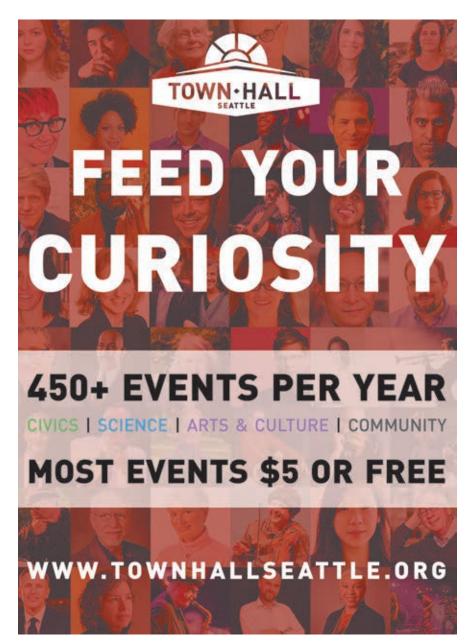
THE GUILTY FEMINIST WITH DEBORAH FRANCES-WHITE Neptune Theatre, Mon Jan 20, 8 pm, \$34

KATHLEEN MADIGAN Moore Theatre, Sat Jan 25, 7 pm, \$28

BRIAN BROOKS MOVING COMPANY Meany Center for the Performing Arts, Jan 30–Feb 1, 8 pm, \$45/\$53

CINDERELLA McCaw Hall, Jan 31-Feb 9, \$25-\$185













The People History Forgot

Paul Rucker's Forever commemorates civil-rights martyrs with a stamp.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

orever Stamps are US first-class stamps that retain their value forever. If you buy them at, say, 50 cents a stamp, even after the first-class postage rate goes up, your Forever Stamp will still be valid. And it's this concept of perpetual retention of value that makes artist vPaul Rucker's show so compelling.

In Forever, which is currently on view at the Greg Kucera Gallery, Rucker constructed

PAUL RUCKER:

Greg Kucera Gallery Through Dec 21

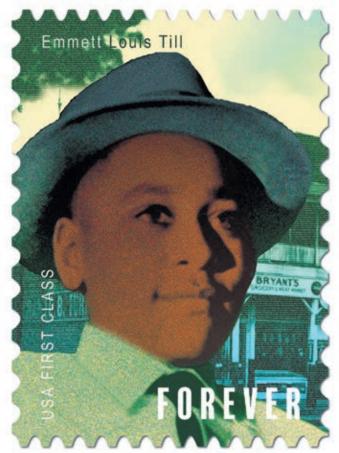
 $15\,commemorative\,stamp$ prints out of aluminum. Eschewing "traditional" subjects like presidents, state flowers, and Amer-

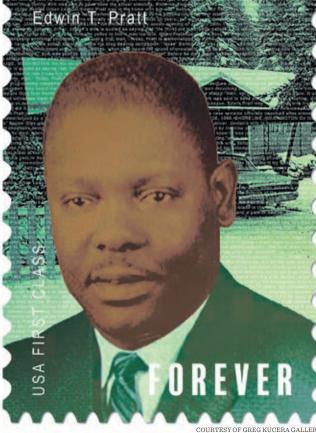
ican flags, Rucker opted instead to place the faces of civil rights-era activists, schoolchildren, and falsely accused teens who were murdered or framed by white supremacists

While some of the people depicted might be familiar to viewers—like Emmett Till or the four little girls who were murdered in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing by members of the Ku Klux Klan-others may prove unfamiliar.

For instance: Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer Sr., a leader in the civil rights movement and president of a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter in Mississippi, who was murdered by the KKK in 1966 for his efforts to get Black people registered to vote. Or Edwin T. Pratt. executive director of the Seattle Urban League and an $advocate \, for \, equal \, housing \, opportunities \, for \,$ black Seattleites, who was shot in 1969 at his home in Shoreline by a white man who was upset with Pratt's organizing efforts.

By centering these martyrs, Rucker investigates how we as a country remember our $violent\ history\ and\ who\ gets\ remembered\ as$ being fundamental in the telling of the story. While some may point to nonviolent activists like Rosa Parks (who refused to give up





 $Stamps \ of \ Emmett \ Till \ and \ Edwin \ T. \ Pratt, with \ biographies \ written \ out \ in \ tiny \ print.$

her bus seat to a white man) as the beginning of their civil rights knowledge, it was really the 1955 violent murder of Emmett Till (who was falsely accused by a white woman of harassment) that spurred Black Americans to fight for recognition of their civil rights.

Compositionally, the stamps are brighter than I'd expected—a sunset orange, a regal purple, a blue fading into red provide backdrops to the portraits of these martyrs. Rucker told me that he did not want the depictions of these people to be in black and white, but in full vivid color, as a way to bring them to life. Decorating the background of each $stamp\ is\ the\ subject's\ biography\ in\ tiny\ print,$ telling their story in a way a portrait by itself never could.

But of course Rucker's series is simply a proposal of how stamps could be. Though stamps are, perhaps, less ubiquitous now than they would have been in a non $digital\,age, the\,historical\,and\,cultural\,figures$ we place on them are recognized as being important to the history of our country.

While remembering people like Pratt or Mississippi activist Medgar Evers by erecting a bronze statue or naming a park after them is also meaningful and important, there's something about the domesticity and "everyday-ness" of a face on a stamp that's just as appealing. It carries emotional power. These faces then become a part of our day-to-day $lives, filling \, our \, drawers \, with \, images \, of \, people$ who history has chosen to forget. A reminder of their life, but also of the value in remembering their stories and what they died for. Forever.



Top Picks

CLOSING SAT DEC 21

Christopher Boffoli: 'Bite Sized'

Culling inspiration from Jonathan Swift's 18th-century tale Gulliver's Travels, Seattle-based artist Christopher Boffoli creates miniature sculptures of people juxtaposed against bright and cheery pictures of food. He creates images of impossible situations: people jumping from cake pop to cake pop, a diver swimming in a martini, a family camped out on top of a s'more. Boffoli adds a layer of cheekiness to each of his compositions, giving the photos irreverent titles that can be read

along with the image. (Winston Wachter Fine Art, dailu. free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SAT JAN 25

Madeleine Cichy: 'A Body as Big as This Room'

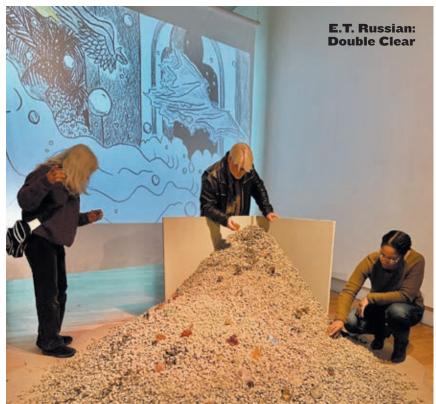
There's really nothing like a beaded curtain. Retro and typically hung in doorways, the curtains announce the arrival (or departure) of a family member, a friend, a pet, often still clanging together long after they have passed through. In Seattle-based artist Madeleine Cichy's solo show, she will be exhibiting watercolor and acrulic works on paper of beaded curtains, finding a "new way of approaching responsive environments and bodily presence." (Specialist, daily, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG







THINGS TO DO → Art



CLOSING SUN MARCH 1

E.T. Russian: 'Double Clear'

In this interactive and accessible exhibition, Seattle artist E.T. Russian meditates on choosing what to live for. Russian is interested in making art that appeals to a broader audience than the one typically catered to, not limiting the experience of enjoying his art to just one sense, but multiple senses at once. Using animation, sculpture, and poetry, *Double Clear* follows gargoyles encountering surreal events as they fly over cemeteries, bridges, and water. During a special event held on January 9, local artists that work with sound and movement perform using Double Clear as the backdrop. The night will include ASL interpretation with live captioning. (Hedreen Gallery, Wed-Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

DEC 19-JAN 14

Julia Wald: 'The Golem: A Family History'

In this very personal show, Seattle-based artist and illustrator Julia Wald will present work that details her Jewish family's time as refugees. Using pen and ink, she'll tell the history of her family using the metaphor of a golem, an anthropomorphic creature made of stones, mud, and clay that can be a monster, hero, or villain to the Jewish people. and is called upon in times of hope or despair. Wald connects this creature with the experiences of her family, saying, "My family's history can be

summed up pretty nicely as a combination of hope and despair, monsters and saviors." (Push/ Pull, daily, free.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**



TheStranger.com/EverOut

Short List

MUSEUMS

Bart at TAM: Animating America's Favorite Family

Tacoma Art Museum, Tues-Sun, \$18, through Dec 31

GALLERIES

Chantal Gibson. Brenetta Ward, Storme Webber, Moses Sun: Installations

Wa Na Wari, Thurs-Sun free, through ${\sf Dec}\ 28$

Crystalline Picnic FoodArt Collection, Sun. free, through Dec 29

Maia Petrić, Etsuko Ichikawa, Peter Gronquist: Digital Perspectives

Winston Wächter Fine Art. Mon-Sat, free, through Dec 21

Natural History: Botanical and Naturalist Subjects

Davidson Galleries, Tues-Sun, free, through Dec 21

New Additions: Lesley Frenz, Emily Gherard, Saya Moriyasu J. Rinehart Gallery, Tues-

Sat. free, through Dec 21 Norman Lundin:

Remembered Detail Greg Kucera Galleru. Tues-Sat, free, through Dec 21

Northwest Mystics 2019: Women of the PNW

Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA), Thurs-Sat. free, through Dec 21

Organic Archival studio e, Thurs-Sat, free, through Dec 28 Stonington Celebrates

40: 40th Anniversary Group Exhibition Stonington Gallery, daily, free, through Dec 31

Susan Dory: Exotic Mass Winston Wächter Fine Art daily, free, through Dec 21

Georgelownslables.com o 206.763.5026







Early Warnings

NICOLE GORDON: ALTERED STATES Bellevue Arts Museum, Jan 24-June 14, \$15

PLAYA MADE: THE JEWELRY OF BURNING MAN Bellevue Arts Museum, Jan 24–June 14, \$15

SUBSPONTANEOUS: FRANCESCA LOHMANN AND ROB RHEE Frye Art Museum, Jan 25-April 19, free

BODY OF WORK: TATTOO CULTURE Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), Opening Sat Feb 1

JACOB A. RIIS: HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES Nordic Museum, Feb 1-March 16, \$15

ASIAN ART MUSEUM REOPENING Asian Art Museum, Feb 8-9, free



The Royal Room





HIGHLIGHTS & HOLIDAYS



Kristin Chambers "Snow Globe" December 20 | 7pm \$12 adv/\$15 dos

in 2020

KNKX Presents: Piano Starts Here

Royal Room Presents

1.15 | Music of Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Jaki Byard 3.18 | Music of Keith Jarrett

5.20 | Music of Ragtime feat. Ray Skjelbred 7.15 Music of Dave Brubeck, John Lewis

9.16 | Music of Gospel 11.18 | Music of Bud Powell, Count Basie

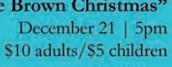
> 2.21 | Mardi Gras 2.25 | Fat Tuesday

Dates to be announced for...

Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble

Electric Circus

The Music of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" December 21 | 5pm







First Annual Royal Room Chanukah Celebration

December 23 | 5:30pm Free Event, Donations Accepted

Zony Mash & Skerik Band December 29 | 8:30pm

\$20 adv/\$25 dos/\$10 student w/ ID





Remembering Art Neville and Dr. John

December 30 | 7:30pm \$15 adv/\$20 dos

New Years Eve with the Royal Room Big Band

December 31 | 8pm Please visit our website for pricing and reservations



The Royal Room Presents: Home for the Holidays Stellar Performances by Musicians Home from College!

12.19 | 7pm Bell Thomason/Jacob Kinden/Isak Gaines/Spencer Edgers

12.26 | 6:30pm Kammy Yedor/Aidan Siemann/Isaac Poole/Raphael Zimmerman/Carter Eng

More Upcoming Events...

12.27 (Early) Brittany Anjou 12.27 (Late) Ex Licks, Thaddillac, El' Steiner 1.5 Gordon Grdina's Nomad Trio w/ Matt Mitchell & Jim Black 1.12 Dave and Nova: Silent Film Scores (2 shows) 1.16 McKenna Haley/Olivia White/Fine 1.30 The Berries/Merz Band/Bad Luck/Great Spiders 1.31 Elere and Omo Alagba 2.11 Dan Rosenboom + Bad Luck 2.13 Earshot Jazz w/ Tim Berne and Matt Mitchell 3.8 arx duo plus Cristina Valdes 3.28 Comedy: Steve Hofstetter 4.28 Zoe Lewis and The Wolves Many more to be announced!



1.10

The Tiptons Sax Quartet 1.17

Danny Newcomb & The Sugarmakers w/ Carrie Akre

The Westerlies feat. Celisse Henderson

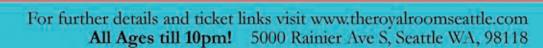
J. Dilla Tribute Night 2.14

Royal Room Valentine's Day w/ Tangoheart

Mike Dillon

feat. Brad Houser and Brian Haas 3.17

Jenny Scheinman & Allison Miller's Parlour Game



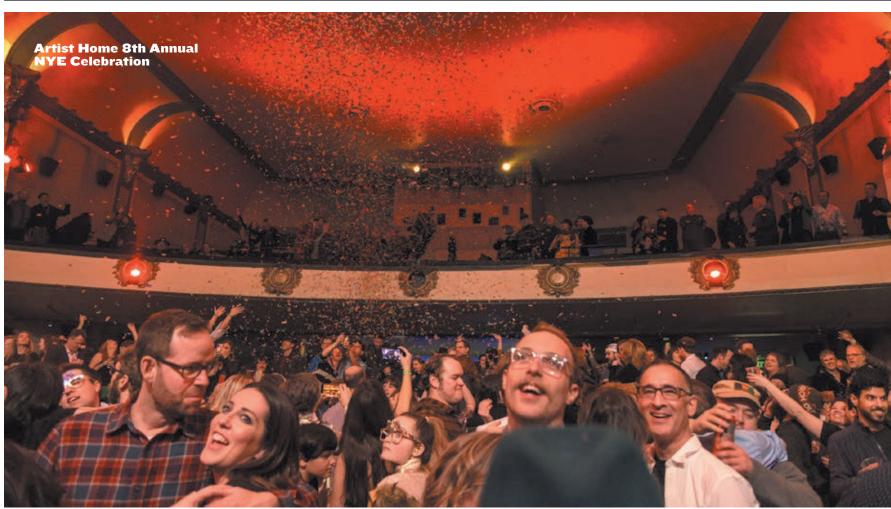








THINGS $\overline{10}$ DO \rightarrow New Year's Eve



Top Picks

TUES DEC 31

Artist Home 8th Annual NYE Celebration

For the eighth year running, Artist Home, the Seattle-based talent-buying, event-promoting, and artist-consulting collective, will host a New Year's Eve bash featuring artists with whom they've worked. Dance your way into 2020 with live sets from members of Seattle bands across the rock, soul, folk, and pop genre spectrums, including Naked Giants, Pickwick, Prom Queen, Smokey Brights, Hobosexual, Eva Walker, Fly Moon Royalty, Gypsy Temple, NightraiN, Gibraltar, Warren Dunes, Local Liars, Tekla Waterfield, Sarah Gerritsen, Hotels, Tea Cozies, Witch Trip, Invisible Shivers, the Environment, Helen Chance, King Youngblood, Glass Elevator, and Leah T. (Tractor Tavern, 9 pm, \$40.) KIM SELLING

Indulgence New Year's Eve Bash

The 19th annual Indulgence New Year's Eve Bash will provide plenty of entertainment before the clock strikes midnight, including comedy performances, live bands and DJs, and after-hours access to MoPOP exhibits. Plus, the party takes place right under the Space Needle, so you'll have prime views of the fireworks show. (Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), 8:30 pm, \$99-\$395.) ELAINA FRIEDMAN

Jet City Improv's New Year's Eve Extravaganza

Party with one of Seattle's excellent improv companies at this shindig offering two hours of comedy, dessert, favors, prizes, a countdown to the fireworks at the Space Needle on the screen, and dancing after midnight. Sadly, this will

probably be Jet City's last celebration in their beloved yellow theater, which will soon be torn down to make way for apartment buildings, so the party will double as a farewell to an icon of theatrical Seattle. (Jet City Improv, 9 pm, \$59.)

New Year's Eve: Pandemonium

Melissa Madden Gray is the NYC-by-way-of-Australia actress, singer, and kamikaze/alt cabaret artist otherwise known as Meow Meow. She's gained a bit of acclaim in the US via her collabs with Thomas M Lauderdale (of Portland's little big band orchestra Pink Martini), and is worthy of your NYE attention; she has a deep, rich, slightly husky vocal quality and an elegant vibrato that soars or slinks over lush cabaret numbers. The subversive diva joins Seattle Symphony for this very special, not at all traditional but entirely cheerful program of "perfectly constructed mayhem and madness." The post-concert party includes a glass of champagne, another live performance, and dancing to the midnight countdown and beyond. (Benaroya Hall, 9 pm, \$58-\$156.) **LEILANI POLK**

New Year's Eve pARTy

Choose this New Year's Eve party if you've got 250 clams to throw around and want to watch fireworks through a glass ceiling, tour the glass museum, hear live music by the Michael Benson Band, and drink a champagne toast at midnight. Dale Chihuly's wriggly, organic-looking glass sculptures will surely be dazzling by firework-light. (Chihuly Garden and Glass, 8 pm, \$250.) JOULE

New Years Eve Karaoke & Yakitori Party

What better way to end the year than with food on a stick? This evening with chefs Melissa Martz and Eric Tanaka revolves around two of

Japan's finest exports: karaoke and yakitori (charcoal-grilled, skewered chicken). Come clad in black, white, or gold, then snack on bottomless grilled snacks and drink sake slushies, beer, or wine for liquid courage as you summon the nerve to belt out your favorite ABBA hits in front of a crowd. There's also a midnight champagne toast, and you'll be well-situated for a view of the Space Needle from Sixth Avenue. (TanakaSan, 9 pm, \$50) JULIANNE BELL

Noise Complaint: A New Year's Space Odyssey

Party crew Noise Complaint will take a whole club of people on an intergalactic and interactive journey through space and time this New Year's Eve, with 10 DJs-including Walker & Royce, Gold Chisme, HHerb, and Jaderade-spread across multiple stages keeping you in step and gliding along to the appropriately corresponding solar system visuals. (Monkey Loft, \$60.) KIM SELLING

Réveillon: Tour de France

Take a tour through France with the cheekily romantic, sparkling bistro L'Oursin's five-course menu. First, you'll begin in Normandy, with Virginica oysters with refreshing apple and cidre mignonette for a taste of the region's famously delicious cider. Next, make your way to Brittany for scallops with beurre demi-sel and clam vinaigrette, then proceed to the Loire Valley, Basque country, and the Côte d'Azur for some crab consommé, octopus basquaise, and black cod. Finally, finish the evening with crème brûlêe in Jura. You can also avail uourself of optional natural wine and cider pairings from each region. (L'Oursin, \$150.) JULIANNE BELL

Resolution

Resolution is an annual end-of-the-year electronic music bash that gathers extremely popular and mainstream EDM and nü-rave artists into an

arena-like space and unleashes their energy onto a throng of writhing young adults. This year's lineup includes massive figures in the scene like Adventure Club, Knife Party, Madeon, Tchami X Malaa, and many more. (WaMu Theater, 6:30 nm \$102/\$189) KIM SELLING

Roaring '20s 2.0

Hark back to the decade of bootlegged booze and glamorous parties in one of the classiest spots in the city—the 35th floor of a building that was once the tallest structure west of the Mississippi River. Tickets include a buffet dinner, a midnight champagne toast (Dom Pérignon 2006), a themed photo booth, and live entertainment from DJ Vodka Twist. (Smith Tower, 6:30 pm, \$20.) ELAINA FRIEDMAN

Spectra: NYE

Wrap up this decade with a swanky, speakeasy-style night out-very appropriate given the centennial of the roaring '20s-under the Space Needle. Tickets include virtual and augmented reality experiences, live DJs, laser karaoke with Baby Ketten, craft booze, and after-hours access to exhibits. For a dash of scientific geekdom, you can check out a diamond-making demonstration, build glammed-up robots, marvel at a Van de Graaff Generator, and get up close with "exotic animals." (Pacific Science Center, 9 pm, \$125.) ΕΙ ΔΙΝΔ ΕΡΙΕΠΜΔΝ

T-Mobile New Year's at the Needle

You can't get a better view of the Space Needle's annual fireworks show than from inside the Space Needle itself, on its rotating glass floor. Before the spectacle, T-Mobile's New Year's Eve party at Seattle's flying-saucer-shaped structure will also bring a "musically choreographed light show," lots of drinks and bites, live music from the Dusty 45s and DJ Orion, and champagne toasting. (Space Needle, \$275.) **ELAINA FRIEDMAN**







THINGS \overline{TO} DO \rightarrow New Year's Eve



Totally Radical New Year's Eve

Instead of donning a flapper dress or seersucker suit on New Year's Eve like the rest of Seattle, tease your hair into an Aqua Net masterpiece for a 1980s bash commemorating the 1985 completion of Columbia City Tower. Party band Free Rain will play classic rock, R&B, and "anything you can dance to," and you're promised unobstructed views of the Space Needle fireworks. (Sky View Observatory, 9 pm, \$150-\$1,250.) ELAINA FRIEDMAN

Valtesse New Year's Eve Party!

Be led into the New Year by the kinky, alluring weirdos of Valtesse as they prowl through a lavish venue in fancy fetish gear and jewel-studded garments. Bring the person (or people) whom you most want to impress, and toast 2020 in 'immersive rooms" with some of the hottest burlesque performers in town. (The Ruins, 9 pm. \$100.) JOULE ZELMAN

MORE

TheStranger.com/EverOut

Short List

Año Nuevo en el Sura NYE Latin Gala! Club Sur, Tues Dec 31, 7:30 pm, \$40-\$500

Best of the Best Party at The Nest The Nest, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm. \$150

Black & White Ball: The Party of the Century (A New Year's Eve Bash) Women's University Club

6 pm, \$110-\$260 Chupacabra NYE!

El Chupacabra, Tues Dec 31, 11:30 am, free Glitz, Glam & Get Down

W Bellevue, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$75-\$2,500

Havana Nights New Year's Eve Celebration Kiana Lodge, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$81–\$92

The Last Dance of the Decade Canlis, Tues Dec 31,

9:30 pm. \$345 New Year's Eve 2019

Partv Century Ballroom, Tues

Dec 31, 7 pm New Year's Eve Bash

The Knife Room, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$60-\$120 New Year's Eve Bash

Hotel Interurban, Tues Dec 31, 10 pm, \$65

New Year's Eve Party Carnation Farms, Tues Dec 31, 7:30 pm, \$75

New Year's Eve Party Cruise

Waterways Cruises, Tues Dec 31, 9:30 pm, 10 pm, \$190

New Years Eve SUITE Restaurant and Lounge, Tues Dec 31, 6 pm, \$30-\$150

New Years Eve Fireworks Cruise

Emerald City Party Boats, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$125-\$650 ★ Nordic New Year's

Fest Swedish Cultural Center Tues Dec 31.8 pm, \$35-\$75

NYE at VUE Lounge Vue Lounge, Tues Dec 31 8 pm, \$25-\$100

NYE at AM2I

Art Marble 21, Tues Dec 31, 3 pm, free

NYE Masquerade Ball Copious, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm, \$45-\$125

Odyssey NYE Celebration W Seattle, Tues Dec 31,

9 pm. \$75/\$200

Pop, Clink, Frolik -Kings + Kweens New Year's Eve

Frolik Kitchen + Cocktails, Tues Dec 31, 10 pm, \$55 /\$85

Prohibition New Year's Eve Party
The Barrel Thief, Tues

Dec 31, 7 pm, \$10+ Roaring 20s New Year's

Eve Party
The Red Door, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, free

ROARING 2020 at The Cloud Room The Cloud Room, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$25-\$35 Slammin' Jammin' New Year's Eve Celebration DoubleTree Suites, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm

Tiara Tuesday New Year's Eve Party Gallery Erato, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$50-\$125

QUEER

BeautyBoiz Wear Masks Fred Wildlife Refuge, Tues Dec 31, \$20/\$40

HER Seattle: The Renaissance Hard Rock Cafe, Tues Dec 31, \$10-\$25

MUSIC 2019 NYE Bash with

New Jack City Clearwater Casino, Tues Dec 31, \$25

New Year's Eve Celebration

McMenamins Elks Temple, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$35/\$40

New Year's Eve Celebration McMenamins, Tues Dec 31, \$20

Abney Park Columbia City Theater, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$35-\$200

Bollywood NYE by Wicked Karma Seattle Design Center, Tues Dec 31, \$30-\$40

★ The Breakfast Club - New Years Day 2020 with John Tejada Monkey Loft, Wed Jan 1,

Candi Pop New Year's Eve Chop Suey, Tues Dec 31,

\$40

9 pm

9 pm, \$15

Celebrate NYE at Cafe Pettirosso with DJ Paco Pettirosso, Tues Dec 31, 10 pm, \$10

Central Saloon's NYE Extravaganza Central Saloon, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm

The Court Supreme NYE Sea Monster Lounge, Tues Dec 31, \$30

★ ECSC/Dug/Wig Out New Years Eve Dance

Party! Screwdriver Bar, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm

Havana's Social - New Years Eve 2019 Havana, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm \$35

Hey Babe! New Years Eve Paiama Party Clock-Out Lounge, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$12/\$15

Into the Darkness (A Retro Darksynth New Years Bash) Highline, Tues Dec 31,

8 pm, \$15/\$20

Irish New Year Murphy's Pub, Tues Dec 31, 11:30 am

Love Vigilantes, Rusholme Ruffians, New Year's Dolls by The JV High Dive, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$25-\$300

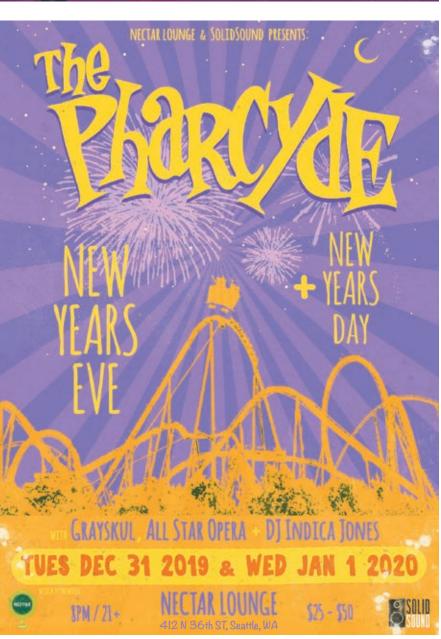
New Year STAGE Seattle, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$35-\$950

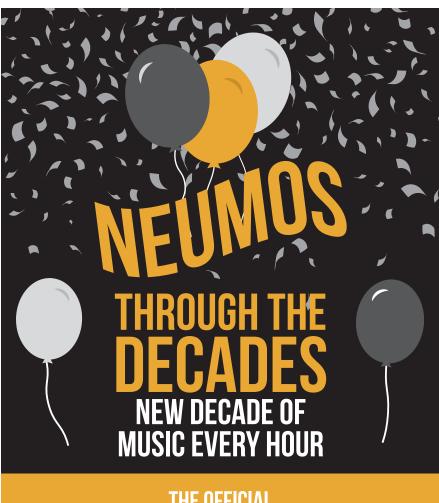
New Year's Eve Cafe Racer, Tues Dec 31,

New Year's Eve Q Nightclub, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm. \$30/\$35









THE OFFICIAL **NEUMOS & BARBOZA**







THINGS \overline{TO} DO \rightarrow New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve in Seattle with Graham Funke Block 41, Tues Dec 31, 8:30 pm-1:30 am, \$99-\$149

New Year's Eve at **Box House** Box House Saloon, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$33-\$43

New Year's Eve - Toe Tag, Detonator. The Dee Dees Slim's Last Chance Chili Shack and Watering Hole,

Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$15 ★ New Year's Eve Gala: Charpentier

St. James Cathedral, Tues Dec 31, 11 pm, \$30

New Year's Eve Party with Sonic Funk **Emerald Downs Tues**

Dec 31, 6 pm ★ New Year's Eve with

Curtis Salgado Triple Door, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm. 10:30 pm. \$90-\$125 New Year's Eve with

Dromeno! St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$50

★ New Year's Eve with the Motet Neptune Theatre, Tues Dec 31. 9 pm. \$30/\$34

★ New Year's Party with Lushy Triple Door MQ Stage, Tues Dec 31, 8:30 pm, free

New Year's Eve Tango Bash with Live Music! Dance Underground, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$35-\$45

New Years Eve ::: Vision ::: Soiree Baltic Room, Tues Dec 31,

9:30 pm, \$22-\$1200 New Years Eve with Ventura Highway Revisited

Bake's Place, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm, \$135

★ New Years Eve Bash: The Commodores Emerald Queen Casino Tues Dec 31, 8:30 pm, free

New Years Eve with the Royal Room Big Band The Royal Room, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$30-\$75

New Years Eve! Purple Strange, MKB Ultra, Down with People Darrell's Tavern, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$10

NYE: A Gatsby Affair with Gabriel and Dresden

Ora Nightclub, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm

NYE BASH! with Mangy, Kids on Fire, Thrash Armstrong, BUGS! The Kraken Bar & Lounge Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$7

NYE Dueling Pianos Keys on Main, Tues Dec 31,

8 pm **NYE Jazz Cruise**

Argosy Cruises at Pier 55, Tues Dec 31, 10:30 pm NYE SNAP! '90s Dance

Party Lo-Fi Performance Gallery,

Tues Dec 31. 9 pm. \$20 NYE with Aaron

Crawford Little Red Hen, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm. \$10

The Official Neumos & Barboza NYE Dance Party

Neumos, Tues Dec 31. \$10-\$180 ★ The Pharcyde Grayskul, All Star

\$35-\$50 ★ Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band Jazz Alley, Dec 30-31

7:30 pm, \$37-\$201

Opera, DJ Indica Jones

Nectar, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm.

Pre-NYE Bollywood Masquerade Party Nectar, Mon Dec 30, 9 pm \$20-\$30

Roaring 20s New Year's Eve Karaoke Party with L80 and Jackie Hell Crescent Lounge, Tues

Dec 31, 8 pm Seattle Bollywood New Year's Eve Party Mega Celebration

Eden Seattle, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$25-\$100 Stayin' Alive New

Years Eve! Orient Express, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm, \$30-\$50

★ Thunderpussy, Bear Axe, Constant Lovers, Trash Fire The Showbox, Tues Dec 31.

9 pm. \$30/\$35 Trinity New Year's Eve Trinity, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$22–\$38

★ U.S.E, Aqueduct, 52Kings Sunset Tayern Tues

Dec 31.9 pm. \$28 (sold out) **FOOD & DRINK**

addo: New Year's Eve Addo, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm \$125-\$250

Alderbrook New Year's Eve Alderbrook Resort & Spa

Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm Bateau New Year's

Eve Dinner Bateau, Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm, \$100

Best of the Best New Year's Eve Dinner at Conversation Conversation, Tues Dec 31.

5 pm, \$92.49 Ristro Shirlee New Year's **Eve Dinner Soiree for All**

Bistro Shirlee, Tues Dec 31, 5-10:30 pm, \$65

Bramling Cross New Year's Eve Bramling Cross, Tues

Dec 31, \$65 Carrello New Year's Eve Carrello, Tues Dec 31,

10:30 pm, \$75 Copperleaf New Year's

Copperleaf Restaurant Tues Dec 31, 5-11 pm, \$115 Cortina New Year's Eve

Cortina Tues Dec 31 \$85 Crawl Til the Ball Falls: Seattle NYE Bar Crawl Various locations, Tues

Dec 31, 6 pm, \$15 Deep Dive New Year's

Deep Dive, Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm, \$198

Hangover Brunch 2020 Super Six, Wed Jan 1, 11 am-3 pm

Heartwood Provisions New Year's Eve Heartwood Provisions

Tues Dec 31, 4:30 pm, \$95 Hitchcock New Year's

Hitchcock, Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm How to Cook a Wolf

New Year's Eve How to Cook a Wolf, Tues Dec 31, \$85

Le Coin New Year's Eve Le Coin, Tues Dec 31, \$85 Marine Hardware New

Year's Eve Marine Hardware, Tues Dec 31, \$65

Maximilien New Year's Eve Dinner and Rouge

Cabaret Trio Maximilien, Tues Dec 31. 5:45-11:59 pm, \$90 / \$110

MKT New Year's Eve mkt., Tues Dec 31, \$85 Moët & Chandon New

Year's Eve Bash Goldfinch Tavern, Tues Dec 31, 5-11 pm, \$110

New Year's at Brimmer & Heeltap Brimmer & Heeltap, Tues Dec 31. 5 pm-12 am

New Year's Eve at Fog Room Seattle Patagōn, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$30+

New Year's Eve Champagne Dinner The Heathman Hotel, Tues Dec 31, 4 pm-2 am, \$135

New Year's Night Fever Party! Sebi's Bistro, Tues Dec 31.

6 pm, \$125 New Year's at Taki's Mad Greek

Taki's Mad Greek, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm

NYE Cheers & Beers on Hood Canal Alderbrook Resort & Spa Tues Dec 31, 8 pm, \$155+

Obec Roarin' 20s New Year's Eve Obec Brewing, Tues Dec 31, 4 pm

★ One Night in Osaka: NYE 2019 Adana, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm-

Prohibition New Year's Eve The Barrel Thief, Tues

1 am, \$167

Dec 31, 7 pm, \$10 Red Cow New Year's Eve

Red Cow, Tues Dec 31, \$85 Rione XIII New Year's Eve Rione XIII, Tues Dec 31, \$85

Roaring 20s New Year's Eve The Melting Pot. Tues Dec 31, 3 pm

Salmon House New Year's Eve Party Ivar's Salmon House, Tues Dec 31. 9 pm

Staple & Fancy New Year's Eve Staple & Fancy Mercantile, Tues Dec 31 \$85

Tarsan i Jane New Year's Eve Tarsan i Jane, Tues Dec 31, 5:30 pm, \$215

Tavolata New Year's Eve Tavolàta (Belltown & Capito Hill) Tues Dec 31 \$85

Urbane New Year's Eve Dinner

Urbane, Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm, \$75 Viet-Caiun New Years

Eve Dinner Central Smoke, Tues Dec 31, 5:30 pm, \$68

The Walrus & The Carpenter New Year's Eve The Walrus and the Carpenter, Tues Dec 31, 5-10:30 pm, \$125

COMMUNITY

First Night

Tacoma, Tues Dec 31, 5-10 pm, \$14/\$18

New Year's at KidsQuest KidsQuest Children's Museum, Tues Dec 31, 10 am-4 pm, admission

New Year's Eve at the Junction West Seattle Junction. Tues Dec 31, 8:30 pm-2 am, free

★ New Year's Eve Fireworks at the Space Needle Space Needle, Tues

New Year's Eve Nighttime Party Imagine Children's Museum, Tues Dec 31.

Dec 31, 11:59 pm

Winterfest New Year's

Eve Seattle Center, Tues Dec 31, 10 am, free

COMEDY

New Year's Eve Comedy Historic Roxy Theatre, Tues Dec 31, 7:30 pm, \$35/\$40

New Year's Eve Comedy Countdown with Guy Branum

Meydenbauer Center, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm 10:30 pm, \$25-\$50

New Year's Eve Comedy with Andrew Rivers Laughs Comedy Club, Tues Dec 31, 7:30 pm 10:30 pm, \$25

Xtreme Theatresports New Year's Eve Party! 2019

Unexpected Productions' Market Theater. Tues Dec 31, 10 pm, \$38-\$55

PERFORMANCE

★ Sandbox Radio: Journey's End Town Hall. Mon Dec 30. 7:30 pm, \$25/\$30

★ Voltage! The Ruins, Dec 20-29 & 31, Fri-Sun, \$65-\$95

FILM

The Room: Futuristic 2020 Edition Central Cinema, Tues Dec 31, 7 pm, \$14/\$16

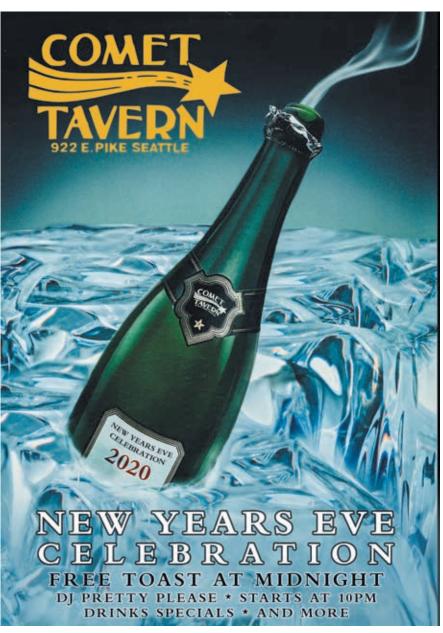
SPORTS & RECREATION

Polar Plunge Lake Sammamish State

Park. Wed Jan 1. 10:30-11:30 am, \$10 Resolution Run & Polar

Bear Dive Magnuson Park, Wed Jan 1. free/\$40







JANUARY 17 – 8:00PM

THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS + YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND

JANUARY 18 – 8:15PM

SUPER

JANUARY 31 - 9:00PM

DARK STAR Orchestra

FEBRUARY 6 – 8:00PM

AMERICAN AUTHORS + MAGIC GIANT WITH PUBLIC

FEBRUARY 8 – 8:30PM

METRONOMY WITH BODEGA

FEBRUARY 17 – 8:30PM

THE GLORIOUS SONS WITH DES ROCS

FEBRUARY 19 – 8:00PM

ZZ WARD

WITH PATRICK DRONEY

FEBRUARY 22 – 8:00PM

FEBRUARY 28 + 29 - 9:00PM

MARCH 4 - 8:00PM

MARC E. BASSY GIANNI & KYLE

MARCH 10 – 8:00PM

GRACE POTTER

WITH BAILEN

MARCH 14 – 8:00PM

SHOWBOX S

BEARTOOTH + **MOTIONLESS IN WHITE**

WITH STICK TO YOUR GUNS, **NOTHING LEFT**

JANUARY 4 – 7:00PM

THE GREEN

JANUARY 23 – 8:00PM

DRUG CHURCH, HOLY FAWN

JANUARY 25 – 7:00PM

THE DISTILLERS **ALEXISONFIRE**

JANUARY 26 – 8:00PM

EKALI

FFEBRUARY 6 + 7 – 9:00PM

WITH THE LIONESS, NIKKI JEAN, BLIMES AND GAB, DJ KEEZY

FEBRUARY 22 – 8:00PM

WITH ALMA

FEBRUARY 24 – 8:00PM

WITH ANDY FRASCO & THE U.N.

FEBRUARY 29 – 7:30PM

THUNDERCAT

MARCH 1 – 8:00PM

MARCH 6 – 9:00PM

WITH AUGUST BURNS RED, LIGHT THE TORCH

MARCH 28 – 8:00PM

KING KRULE

APRIL 10 - 9:30PM

BLACK GUMMY

DECEMBER 21 – WAMU THEATER

FEBRUARY 21 – NEUMOS

JAYDEN BARTELS

MARCH 1 - NEPTUNE THEATRE

WITH KASH'D OUT, THE ELOVATERS

MARCH 3 - NEUMOS

You're Gonna Feel Their Love Buzz

Seattle party-starters U.S.E regroup after a decade layoff for a NYE blowout.

BY DAVE SEGAL

n the '00s, the 14-legged love machine that was U.S.E seemed to be on the verge of superstardom. The Seattle group's absurdly ebullient dance music was huge in Japan and had important American critics ululating with hyperbole. Indie-rock fans and electronic-music heads united in their admiration for U.S.E, whose members conjured a euphoria so overwhelming, they almost had a bene-

U.S.E, AQUEDUCT, 52KINGS

Tues Dec 31, Sunset Tavern, 9 pm, \$27.50, 21+

BIG ASS BOOMBOX

Sat Jan 4, Crocodile,

volent, cultish aura about them. Aural and lyrical love was USE's drug and people needed to score.

U.S.E (short for United State of Electronica) didn't blow up as ex-7 pm, free, part all ages pected, though, and they dispersed following a

2009 New Year's Eve show after releasing two albums and five singles. Their catalog abounds with anthems geared to evaporate cynicism and gloom with the flourish of a radiant synth swell, an ecstatic guitar chime, a pell-mell disco beat, and an angelic vocal, I had the good fortune to witness hundreds of Japanese fanatics lose their minds to U.S.E in Tokyo and Osaka, and it felt, looked, and sounded like a Pacific Northwest Beatlemania in miniature.

Since then, U.S.E's musicians relocated to New York City, Los Angeles, Northern California, and other parts, with some starting families. Despite the changes, the band remained close and kept busy musically. Guitarist Jason Holstrom issued a series

U.S.E are reuniting for a NYE roof-raiser.

of excellent electronic ambient releases as Sunstrom Sound and made spacey pop as Tonight Sky. He and U.S.E singers Carly Nicklaus and Amanda Okonek generated sparks in the pop/R&B outfit Bardot. Keyboardist/vocalist Noah Star Weaver wrote 200 songs and released 50 with Joy Follows, guitarist Pete Sali has created three titan town albums, and drummer Jon e. Rock just

finished a record with LAZERBLADE.

Now for the really good news: U.S.Ewhose members (including bassist Derek Chan) now live in the 206 again-are reuniting at the Sunset for what should be a pneumatic NYE roof-raiser, "This was a surprising development, although sort of brewing for the last year or so maybe," says $Holstrom. \\ ``Our underlying numerology may$ have gotten our attention, as our last show was NYE [going into] 2010, and 2020 seems like a big deal historically, politically, cosmically, personally, etc."

"Even though we weren't playing shows or making music as U.S.E, the magical energy and love we have for each other never died," Okonek says. "We knew it would take some serious coordination and maybe a few miracles to make this happen." Weaver adds. "Seems like the world could use a little more love right about now, and that's a sound we know how to make together"

Despite the complications of day jobs and family obligations, U.S.E have been prepping hard for this auspicious comeback, even though they admit it's

something of a miracle they can get together and play the sugar-smacked disco jam "Open Your Eyes" after all these years. The band even worked on a new song in late November. Speaking as a collective, they say: "It's hot and inspiring, it feels like a brand-new day. It's got the same voices and sounds with maybe a new level of

experience. The music is alive and so much fun to play together."

As for the Sunset show, people can expect a clutch of classics along with at least one new U.S.E jam. "A new batch of tunes would be the next big step for the band, which will take a further level of commitment," they say. "We'll see how the stars align for all of that." \blacksquare

Top Picks

THURS DEC 19

deadmau5, MSTRKRFT, Qrion,

ELECTRONIC Deadmau5's current CUBE V3 Tour is named after his signature self-programmed projector set piece. The Canadian DJ and producer recentlu studied how to write code specificallu so he could generate one-of-a-kind visuals at his shows in real time, rather than rely on recordings. LED light baths and rafter-filling graphics will not be in short supply, as the artist is known for continually leveling up. With shakedown grips and saber-esque blips, his latest single, "Fall," is a seven-minute beckon from the mask's stark side. Supporting act Qrion's songs—"Foggy August," "Safeway Sushi"—are electronic microcosms of her hometown of Sapporo, Japan, and current base in San Francisco, (WaMu Theater, 7:30 pm. all ages.) AJ DENT



Tourist, Matthew Dear

ELECTRONIC This bill features a fine, non-ravey electronic alternative to the mouse head-fueled house beats happening a few miles away. In a roundabout way, you've heard Tourist; the artist otherwise known as William Phillips cowrote Sam Smith's "Stay with Me" and won a Grammy for it. But his own solo work is subtlu expressive. atmospheric, beat-light electro with the odd vocal splices and found sounds. He dropped two LPs in 2019, Everyday in February and Wild in October.

Matthew Dear has a heavier, electro-synthy avant pop stule that sometimes feels dark or melancholic, which has much to do with his deep, sometimes dour vocal timbre. His latest release, 2018's Bunny, is decidedly weird and fun, with a few key guest spots by Tegan and Sara. (Neumos, 8 pm, \$20-\$100.) **LEILANI POLK**

FRI DEC 20

Benjamin Gibbard, Johnathan Rice

ROCK/POP The last time I saw Ben(jamin) perform was at a Town Hall tribute to the late Leonard Cohen, wherein local luminaries covered folk classics that made a chapel full of adults rock with silent sobs for two straight hours. Hopefully this performance will be less of a wake, but just as honest, warm, and generous as Ben's Cohen interpretations were that night. He'll be joined by singer-songwriter and frequent Jenny Lewis collaborator Johnathan Rice, whose song "So Sweet" appeared on 2004's Music From The OC: Mix 2 ... and no. I'm not ashamed to sau that's whu I know

who he is. (Washington Hall, 8 pm, all ages, \$50 (sold out).) KIM SELLING

BRRR! Winter Solstice Celebration

ELECTRONIC Dance in the shortest day of the year with a constellation of local hip-hop favorites. Lo-Fi's multitude of eclectic corners will feature six acts throughout the night. The duo of Remember Face grafts abstract beats behind stoic storytelling, while Portland's Blossom swirls autobiographical lyrics in R&B liqueur. The trap and boom bap of multi-instrumentalist Samurai Del will elasticize the evening's energy, as DJ Kween Kay\$h keeps the hype up and the cold out. Portland producer Sxlxmxn is sure to fire up his recent EYRST record label remixes. And Seattle rapper and singer-songwriter Mr. Hentvii hosts. (Lo-Fi, 8 pm.) AJ DENT

Plaid, WMD

ELECTRONIC English duo Plaid have been making high-quality electronic music for nearly 30 years. Mainstays of important British label Warp, Plaid







NECTAR LOUNGE

NECTAR

"All Is Bright" Tour plus special guests: Bo Napoleon Two Story Zori, Fluid Foundation

12.20 Friday (Live Band Tributes) **PETTY OR NOT**

(Tom Petty + Fleetwood Mac) feat mems of Polecat, Acorn Project Baby Cakes (Golden Age of Soul / R&B)

12.21 Saturday & 12.22 Sunday

The Juan Maclean, DJ Max Gain

CHROMEO (DJ SET)

ANUHEA

AN-TEN-NAE

Soohan, Pressha, Torbjorn Visuals by Lily J

12.28 Saturday (Live Band Tributes)
"TALKING DEAD"
feat LDW (Talking Heads), GARCIA
BIRTHDAY BAND (Grateful Dead)



12.31 Tuesday & 1.1 Wednesday

THE PHARCYDE Grayskul, All Star Opera, DJ Índica Jones



1.4 Saturday (Live Band Tributes) QUEEN MOTHER (QUEEN) + TIGER TIGER (DURAN DURAN)



POP2K: MILLENIUM **EDITION**

Feat All4doras Seattle's only tribute boy band & DJ HandZ playing all the dance party hits from 2000-2010



1.17 Friday (Soul/Funk)
ORGŌNE

with special guests Cytrus

UPCOMING EVENTS

PETTY OR NOT

12.26 KNOWMADS 12.30 JAI HO! MASQUERADE BALL 1.2. REEL ROCK 14 (SECOND SCREENING) 1.3 THE BIG '80S PARTY 1.4 FORTRESS OF THE BEAR AT HIGH DIVE 1.5 STEVIE STONE AT HIGH DIVE 1.7 MURKULES 1.8 UNSINKABLE HEAVIES W/ SCOTT PEMBERTON 1.9 BUZZ BUMP 1.10 HIGH STEP SOCIETY + GENERAL MOJO'S 1.10 REZIN TOOTH AT HIGH DIVE 1.15 UNSINKABLE HEAVIES W/ STEVE SWATKINS 1.16 ZIONI 1.17 ORGONE 1.18 LAS CAFETERAS 1.18 ACORN PROJECT AT HIGH DIVE 1.22 UNSINKABLE HEAVIES W/ CHICO MANN 1.23 THE MOTHER HIPS 1.24 TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS 1.25 DOPAPOD 1.29 UNSINKABLE HEAVIES W/ SKERIK 1.30 OG MCTUFF + TRIO SUBTONIC 1.31 ALBOROSIE & THE SHENGEN CLAN 1.31 ATYYA AT HIGH DIVE 2.6 KITCHEN DWELLERS 2.7 LITTLE PEOPLE + YPPAH 2.8 PINK TALKING FISH 2.14 & 2.15 ANDY COE BAND 2.18 TROUT STEAK REVIVAL 2.21 GHOST-NOTE + JOJO MAYER / NERVE 2.22 DUSTBOWL REVIVAL 2.29 MARCHFOURTH AT NEUMOS 4.4 PIMPS OF JOYTIME 4.9 BE SVENDSEN 4.17 BUMPIN' UGLIES 4.24 NIGHTMARES ON WAX (DJ SET)

EVERY MONDAY: KARAOKE EVERY THURSDAY: MARMALADE Seattle's Longest Running Funk Night

12.18 Wednesday (Indie/Rock)
STUCKY JACKSON & THE BOYS

Roxbury, Hi Wasted

12.20 Friday (Electronic)

KLL SMTH & ZEBBLER ENCANTI EXPERIENCE

12.21 Saturday (Electronic)
RUSS LIQUID

Plantrae, Willdabeast

12.22 Sunday (Rock)

WHALIEN Mr. Feelgood & The Firm Believers

with guests

12.27 Friday (Pop Tributes)
ELECTRIC BOOTS

POKER FACE

Tribute to Lady Gaga

12.28 Saturday (Dance)
"I'M NOT OKAY - AN EMO & POP PUNK DANCE PARTY" DJ BABY VAN BEEZLY

12.31 Monday (New Wave/Alternative/Tribute)

LOVE VIGILANTES

Rusholme Ruffians New Year's Dolls by The JV

1.3 Friday (Jam/Rock/Funk)

FLOWMOTION

(Ed Handley and Andy Turner) emerged out of IDM legends the Black Dog in 1991 and ever since have been dropping fascinating releases every two to five years to a modest yet rabid cult following. Plaid's knack for combining nimble beats, sweetly tart melodies, and unusual textures coaxed Björk into working with them, so they have that cachet. The newest Plaid album, Polymers, is as engrossing and strange as anything in their rich catalog. It would be a mistake to miss a rare Seattle appearance by these legends. (Crocodile, 8 pm, \$18/\$20.) **DAVE SEGAL**

SAT DEC 21

Poison Idea

ROCK/POP Long-running PDX dirtbags and notable kings of punk Poison Idea are supposedly wrapping up their long career, as this El Corazon date is billed as their last Pacific Northwest show. WHUT!?! Hard to believe, but I dig-they ain't exactly kids anymore, and perhaps it's their time "Just to Get Away." Funny, though, the last time I saw them play live was... when the original, re-formed 1980s lineup played their "last show" sometime in the late 1990s, so maybe they'll reunite and play again one day. But until that day, THIS is it, y'all!! (El Corazon, 8:30 pm, \$18/\$20.)

The Music of 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'

JAZZ Because the Royal Room does the music of Charlie Brown every year, every year I have to write this love poem to the core tune. "Christmas Time Is Here (Instrumental)," this masterpiece of American culture. It is, I think, one of the most beautiful pieces of jazz ever composed. Listening to it is like watching the falling snow through a window. The room is warm, something is roasting in the oven, and outside, the flakes are falling faintly through the universe and upon the trees. the hedges, the water gutters, the telephone poles, and the rooftops of a thousand apartment buildings. This is where you want to be forever. This is Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time Is Here (Instrumental)." It opens with a trembling bass, like someone coming out of the cold, stamping their feet, brushing the snow off their shoulders, hanging their winter coat, rubbing and blowing on numb fingers, and entering the living room where there is a window, watching the flakes

falling faintly upon all the buildings and the living. (The Royal Room, 5 pm, all ages, \$5/\$10.) CHARLES MUDEDE

Research: D.Dan

DJ Berlin-based techno DJ and producer D.Dan creates frenetic, heavy-hitting, and funky beats to groove the night away to. His hard and acidic edge is bolstered by intense and rapid-fire percussive elements. He also has excellent releases on Lobster Theremin and Arsenik and is a relatively recent resident at the nightclub Mala Junta, a pillar of queer nightlife in Berlin. D.Dan's open-toclose set is sure to nourish both the mind and the body. (Kremwerk, 10 pm, \$8.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

SeaMuse

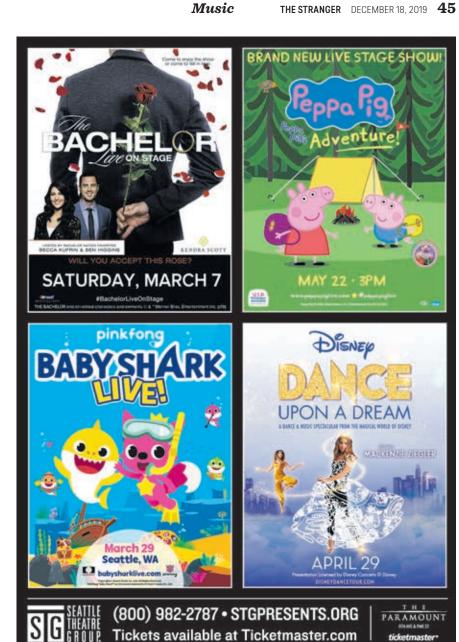
BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Dusty Strings' annual solstice celebration welcomes back SeaMuse, a fourpiece band with local ties and global sounds. With a repertoire of traditional folk songs from Turkey, Greece, England, and more, their set is a chance to see instruments such as lutes and glockenspiels in action. SeaMuse's seasonal numbers and original poetry will light up the Fremont space as they prepare to release their upcoming album, Solstice Fire. Celebrating 40 years in business this month, Dusty Strings offers warm hues and rich acoustics—a fittingly convivial venue in which to salute the longest night of the year. (Dusty Strings, 7 pm, all ages, \$25.) **AJ DENT**



Sera Cahoone, Lydia Ramsey

ROCK/POP Three years ago, I wrote: "Sera Cahoone's innate language is that of heartbreak, of knowing what you have in this life is perfect, or as perfect as humans can access, and there's no way it could ever last." I stand by this assertion,









but I recently saw her again at the Carissa's Wierd reunion show of sorts at the Abbey, and got to update my own feelings about her work. Cahoone's music holds the power of healing in its simplicity; know yourself, know that you can always learn and grow, and let yourself be present in every moment. Heal from within, so that you may feel it all. She's a gem, and her music, even when it hurts, feels so good. (Crocodile, 8 pm, all ages, \$15.) KIM SELLING

DEC 21-22

Chromeo, the Juan Maclean

DJ The last time I saw the Juan Maclean spin records from the Nectar main stage, I commiserated that live music venues always leave DJ sets feeling like an afterthought. But Nectar is doubling down on the disc jockey this pre-Xmas weekend, bringing in the latter-day funk masters behind Chromeo to join the Juan Maclean for a twonight-run of DJ sets. (Saturday sold out so quickly, a Sunday show was added.) While I confess to some surprise at Chromeo's 15-year longevity their 2018 release Head Over Heels was panned as tasteless and out of touch with contemporary gender politics-I'm curious what kind of record collection they've amassed along the way. But the real intrigue is flinty Maclean, a DFA Records staple whose techno and house machinations belie a career that stretches back to Six Finger Satellite, 1990s-era post-hardcore synth junkies with four Sub Pop releases. I promise better tunes than your company holiday party. (Nectar, 8 pm, \$35-\$65) GREGORY SCRUGGS

SUN DEC 22

Flammable: A Very Pezzner **Christmas!**

DJ If the tail end of the weekend presents an insurmountable obstacle to going out, like, say, to work, then the Sunday before Christmas is your ticket-there's no slower workweek than the last one of the year (notwithstanding the indentured servants, *ahem,* sorry, I mean elves, chained inside Amazon fulfillment centers). It's the perfect excuse to pay a visit to the longest running house night west of Chicago in the form of Flammable—all the better on a night when they are hosting one of Seattle's finest electronic music exports. Pezzner has carved out a career of intriguing beeps and bloops for more than two decades. His October EP for respected German label Get Physical teeters on the edge of musique

concrète before diving into four-on-the-floor rhythms. It's just the right balance of chin-stroking and booty-shaking that has made him such a local treasure. (Re-bar, 10 pm.) GREGORY SCRUGGS

THURS DEC 26

She Wants Revenge, the Guidance

ELECTRONIC She Wants Revenge's licentious, Joy Division-worshipping "Tear You Apart" was 2006's wet-dream deep cut for hip clubsters to get their American Apparel-clad freak on. The Los Angeles duo answered their eponymous debut album with This Is Forever the following year. Now in 2019, after a seven-year hiatus—save for a few "we're still alive" anniversary shows—they're avenging their sophomore, tear-stained opus on their This Is Forever Tour. Pre-rage this electroseductive banger by cranking up the nostalgia (I'll be blasting Fischerspooner's "Emerge") to get in the mood and tear away from the holiday hangovers and into this mid-aughts reunion. (Crocodile, 8 pm, \$25.) **ZACH FRIMMEL**

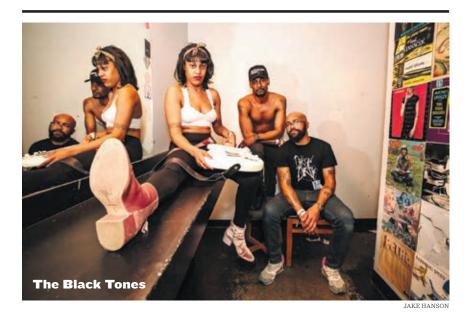
DEC 26-29



Blind Boys of Alabama Holiday Show

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK The legendary, multi-Grammy-winning Southern gospel, blues, and soul group plays four nights starting right after Christmas. Based on the show's title, the set list will likely skew heavy on festive selections (they have a few holiday albums, the last being 2014's Talkin' Christmas!). But the Blind Boys of Alabama have been active going on 80 years and their catalog is vast, so there's sure to be other offerings, too. BBOA are currently led by sole original surviving member, vocalist Jimmy Carter, with heavy backup from the group's other singers (Ricky McKinnie, Ben Moore, and Paul Beasley), guitarist and musical director Joey Williams, and a full band that includes players on bass, drums, and keys. Be prepared to be moved and uplifted. These dudes are gonna take you to church, in a good way. (Jazz Alley, 7:30 pm, \$61.) LEILANI POLK





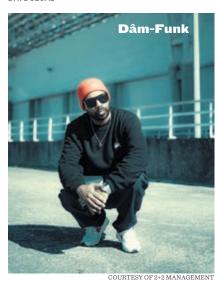
FRI DEC 27

The Black Tones

ROCK/POP KEXP's Audioasis DJ Eva Walker and her brother Cedric know how to punkify the blues and blues-ify the punk. If you've ever witnessed their high-octane rock and roll and the dynamic of Eva's infectious and idiosyncratic quirks matched with the band's avalanche-like force, then you know you can't experience their live shows enough. Their 2019 chart-topping Cobain and Cornbread is easily one of the strongest full-lengths (a debut at that!) to come out of Seattle this year-not to mention one of the more culturally salient bands to break out in the rock genre right before the new decade. (Neumos, 8 pm, \$12-\$45.)

Christopher Ledger, Succubass,

DJ Rome/Berlin-based DJ/producer Christopher Ledger makes his Seattle debut, and it should be a heady night. His cerebral tech-house tracks abound with intriguing ambient tones and neoclassical piano motifs. Intelligent, psychedelic sound design rules in Ledger's productions, which often recall Ricardo Villalobos's oblique melodies and gliding and skittering rhythms. Succubass (aka Jessica Duran) has become one of Seattle's most savvy and eclectic selectors, excelling at techno, breaks, and drum & bass. (Timbre Room, 9 pm.) DAVE SEGAL



Dâm-Funk, Nosaj Thing, **Machinedrum**

FUNK/REGGAE My favorite YouTube comment on the fog-enshrouded video for Dâm-Funk's laidback West Coast jam "We Continue" is simply this: "Medicinal!" If you're in search of music to un-crease your brow, look no further than the Pasadena synth-funk maestro also known as Damon Riddick. Over three albums and countless singles, he's collaborated with everyone from Slave's Steve Arrington to Ariel Pink. As Riddick told Resident Advisor in 2010, "Funk is not a fadit's a way of life." To judge by their discographies, musician-producers Nosaj Thing (Jason Chung) and Machinedrum (Travis Stewart), who've loaned their expertise to Kendrick Lamar and Solange, feel exactly the same way. (Crocodile, 8 pm, \$25.) KATHY FENNESSY

Don McGreevy, Skerik, **Crystal Beth**

ELECTRONIC You should know multi-instrumentalist Don McGreevy from his left-of-center work with Master Musicians of Bukkake, Earth. and Sulphuric. He also excels at drone-based compositions for large ensembles and as a solo artist. For the latter mode, check his 2015 album Aichmophobia, which explores kosmische territories in the realm of Popol Vuh and György Ligeti. Skerik is an insanely prolific and diverse saxophonist/keyboardist who's taken artistic risks in dozens of bands. No telling what tricks he'll pull here. Crystal Beth is the stage moniker of veteran improvisational clarinetist/singer Beth Fleenor, who's played with Terry Riley, David Byrne, and many other luminaries. On her new album, Push Thru, she flexes glossolalia-laced vocals in alpha -female modes, like a Pacific Northwest Yoko Ono or Urszula Dudziak, and transfers her skills into art songs that sometimes rock, sometimes trance out, and sometimes float enigmatically. (Chapel Performance Space, 8 pm, all ages, \$5-\$15.)

SAT DEC 28

31st Anniversary Concert of **Duke Ellington's Sacred Music**

JAZZ This is the annual concert of Sacred Music by Duke Ellington. Ellington was, of course, the greatest and most creative figure of the big band era. He had, one could argue, three main musical projects: One was the production of dance-hall hits, two was the production of serious black music (music that would represent the 400-year history of African descendants in the world that was new to Europeans), and three was the production of pieces that expressed his religious/ existential feelings. Tonight is devoted to the third, and in many ways most profound, of Ellington's





Dinner service everyday 5-11pm



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB:

THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

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THINGS TO DO → Music



ALLEN DANIE

projects. Anyone who has heard his composition "Come Sunday" instantly understands that Ellington felt God as something that's inside and not outside of (or remote from) the human experience. He was, in short, a Spinozist. And so was, for that matter, John Coltrane. The theology of Spinoza, a 17th-century Dutch Jewish philosopher, has many features that agree with jazz spirituality. The Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra will stage the program joined by guest vocalists Dr. Stephen Newby and Nichol Veneé Eskridge, plus tap dancer (and SRJO saxophonist) Alex Dugdale and the Northwest Chamber Chorus (under director Mark Kloepper). (*Town Hall, 7:30 pm, \$19-\$48.*) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

Depth: Pearson Sound

ELECTRONIC Hessle Audio co-owner Pearson Sound (aka British producer/DJ David Kennedy, aka Ramadanman) has been an important tastemaker and creative presence in global dance-music culture for the past decade. Eight years ago in these pages, I wrote that Kennedy is "known for his labyrinthine rhythms and sophisticated sound palette in the future-bass petri dish of experimentation. Amid all the brainy beat convolutions and exploratory textures, Pearson Sound infuses a soulfulness that keeps things from getting clinical." All of that holds true today. This Depth event might be the smartest way this month to sweat off your holiday overindulgences. (Kremwerk, \$12.) DAVE SEGAL

Lindstrom and the Limit, Heather Edgley

ROCK/POP Aaron Lindstrom's trio, first formed in 2015, has metastasized into a nine-piece. With so much firepower onstage, the band juggles a variety of sounds: alternative, soul, rock, and folk. The local boys have done pretty darn good in just a short stretch of time. They sold out the High Dive for the release of their newest album, Estate Sale!, and the bookers at Neumos must have taken notice, as Lindstrom and the Limit are headlining Capitol Hill's big room for the first time. The Neumos stage should give plenty of more room to roam, especially on funky numbers like "Hot Butter" that are sure to get the pre-New Year's crowd moving. (Neumos, 7 pm, \$12/\$15.) GREGORY SCRUGGS

Taylar Elizza Beth, Astro King Phoenix, sunking, Dero

HIP-HOP/RAP Los Angeles-based rapper Taylar Elizza Beth (aka Taylar White) has a distinctively

low voice that pairs well with her dark and ethereal beats, evoking both jewel-toned velvet and glimmering platinum. It's perfect to lounge to in a mesh jumpsuit while smoking a giant blunt. Her latest release, *Ripening*, is a heady and entrancing foray into her universe: "Countdown to Chaos" is a beguiling, trippy, slowed-down track, while "Blah!" featuring DoNormaal makes me want to get into someone's face. TEB will be joined by LA-based rapper Astro King Phoenix, experimental group sunking, and Dero. (Kame Hou\$e, 9 pm, all ages, \$8-\$15.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MON DEC 30

Manatee Commune

ELECTRONIC Close your eyes and think of a manatee commune. What do you imagine? Manatees in brightly patterned button-ups, for sure. Definitely a kitchen stocked with jars of dried fair-trade sea algae. And in this commune, what do you think they listen to? In an ideal world, it would be the music of classically trained, multi-instrumentalist Grant Eadie's electronic project Manatee Commune. Bright and ebullient, Eadie combines field recordings, sounds from nature, guitar licks, and viola melodies to create his productions. His tracks have a playfulness that makes them perfect for dance floors and communes alike. (*Neumos*, 8 pm, \$23/\$25.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

Remembering Art Neville and Dr. John

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Two behemoths of New Orleans music and venerable keysmen who passed away in 2019 get paid loving tribute on this night. There will never be another artist like voodoo blues rocking, R&B rolling Dr. John, an avant soul with a grizzly distinctive vocal and wide-ranging résumé that included a vast solo repertoire, collabs with the likes of Ringo Starr and Leon Redbone (who also passed in 2019), and even the theme song of the animated Curious George TV series. Art Neville changed the face of NOLA jazz and R&B, helping usher in the funk with his siblings-led band, the Meters, which are credited (along with James Brown) with being one of the genre's founders. The Dr. John set will feature Jeff Fielder and Andy Stoller, while Art Neville's set will be helmed by the Meter Maids (Waune Horvitz, Mike Stone, Jeff Fielder, and Gerald Turner). (The Royal Room, 7:30 pm, \$15.) LEILANI POLK

TUES DEC 31



SHINE NYE

DANCE I don't mean to be a fatalist here, but the spots of downtown and SLU-adjacent areas we know and love will not last forever, thanks to hungry ghost developers and rapidly expanding corporate campus tumors. For this reason, among many others, Kremwerk and Timbre Room (and Re-bar around the corner) should be supported at all costs. So even if the complex's fifth annual NYE throwdown SHINE weren't one of your best bets for dance music billing on the biggest party night of the year, I'd still tell you to get your ass to Minor Avenue. The venue's three stages will be stacked with everything from upbeat house to dark techno to unrepentant disco and acid camp club music, with deck pros like Dowsk, Ennelyn, Faraday, Parker Mills, and Neight1000 at the helm till five in the goddamn morning. Make sure to get an early AM slice from Little Maria's to round out the experience. (Kremwerk, \$28-\$394.) KIM SELLING

Thunderpussy, Bear Axe, **Constant Lovers, Trash Fire**

ROCK/POP The Showbox is doing it right this year! Not only is this bill a powerhouse of badass shredders, but the range of subgenres performing makes for an eclectic electricity of elation to kick in the jams for 2020. Trash Fire will light the party fuse with their dark, pulsing electro. Constant Lovers will flambé the stage with their angular, art punk as fronted but he animated Joe Cuplin. Bear Axe will absolutely slay harder than a thousand steel-hoofed reindeer. And there's no better way to usher in (hopefully) another year closer to shredding the patriarchy than with the mellifluous matriarchs of Thunderpussy. (The Showbox, 9 pm, \$30/\$35.) **ZACH FRIMMEL**

DEC 31-JAN 1

The Pharcyde

HIP-HOP/RAP I can't think of a much better way to ring in the New Year, then celebrate the first day of its existence, than with venerable '90s-era-spawned alt hip-hop group the Pharcyde. While gangsta rap was taking off, the South Central LA group was fusing jazz into their productions and releasing a debut LP that went gold on the strength of its second single (and the song by them you know), "Passin' Me By," which so famously copped the instrumental organ-driven groove of "Summer in the City" by Quincy Jones along with several other tracks, including Jimi Hendrix Experience's "Are You Experienced?" and "125th Street Congress" by Weather Report. Nowadays, only two of the original four members are touring under the Pharcude moniker, rappers Imani and Bootie Brown (both have vaguely nasally vocal qualities). On NYE, they'll be joined by Seattle hip-hop duo Grayskul, DJ Indica Jones, and soulful hip-hop live band All Star Opera. Everyone except for All Star Opera will be on hand for the New Year's Day bill. (Nectar, 8 pm, \$25-\$35.) **LEILANI POLK**

MORE

TheStranger.com/EverOut

Short List

5th Annual Kristin Chambers "Snow Globe" The Royal Room, Fri

Dec 20 7 pm. 9:30 pm. \$12/\$15

AJJ, Amigo The Devil, Days N Daze. The Bridge City Sinners

Neumos, Fri Dec 20, 5 pm, all ages, \$32/\$35

Anuhea

Nectar, Thurs Dec 19, 9 pm, \$25-\$900

The Breakfast Club -New Years Day 2020 with John Teiada Monkeu Loft, Wed

Jan 1, \$40 Country Lips, Santa

Poco, Double Country Clock-Out Lounge, Fri Dec 20, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

CURRENSY, OG Mambo Fresh, Ragustax

Fl Corazón, Sun Dec 22. 9 pm, \$26/\$30

Dangerknife, Guests Chapel Performance

Space, Sat Dec 28, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

Darude

Ora Nightclub, Fri Dec 27, 10 pm, \$15-\$400

Donny D'usse Memorial Show

Vera Project, Fri Dec 20, 7 pm, all ages, \$15/\$20

Enuff Z'Nuff, Bahy and the Nobodies. Aisha, Drastic Down, Thomas Weeks & Force of Nature The Funhouse, Wed Jan 1, 8 pm, \$16-\$20

Fleetwood Snack. Lindseys, Malcolm Rebel, xRAWRx, Televangelish Barboza, Mon Dec 30. 7 pm, \$10

The Four Seasons Benaroya Hall, Dec 28-29, \$26-\$90

Fruit Bats, Cataldo. **Kacey Johansing** Tractor Tavern, Dec 20-21, 9 pm, \$25/\$40

Fruition, Danny Barnes Crocodile, Sat Dec 28, 8 pm, \$25

Grevhounds, Caitlin Sherman

Tractor Tavern, Thurs Dec 19, 8 pm, \$15

Handel's Messiah Benaroya Hall, Dec 20-22, \$26-\$90

Holiday Ball with Steel Beans, Long Day on Mars, Dragontail Peak Belltown Yacht Club, Fri Dec 27, 9 pm, \$10

Ivan & Alyosha "Carols By the Fireside" Conor Byrne, Fri Dec 20, 6-11:45 pm, \$20

Judy Collins Holidays & Hits Jazz Alleu, Dec 19-22. 7:30 pm, \$57

Lost Kings, Martin Jensen The Showbox, Sat Dec 21.

9 pm, all ages, \$25/\$30 MxPx, Amber Pacific

The Showbox, Sat Dec 28 8 pm, all ages, \$30

Northwest Boychoir's 41st Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols Saint Mark's Cathedral Dec 20-21, 7:30-9 pm, all ages, \$13-\$45

The Polish Amhassador. Random Rab

The Showbox, Mor Dec 30, 8:30 pm, all ages, \$33/\$35

Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band Jazz Alley, Dec 30–31. 7:30 pm, \$37-\$201

Rezz, Peekaboo, Black Gummy WaMu Theater, Sat Dec 21, 8 pm, \$35-\$50

Seattle Men's Chorus: 'Tis The Season Benaroya Hall, Sun Dec 22, 8 pm, \$25-\$81

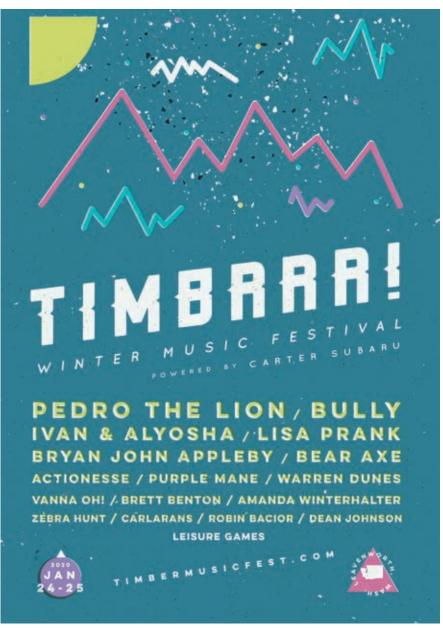
Steel Panther Clearwater Casino, Sun Dec 22, 6 pm, \$35

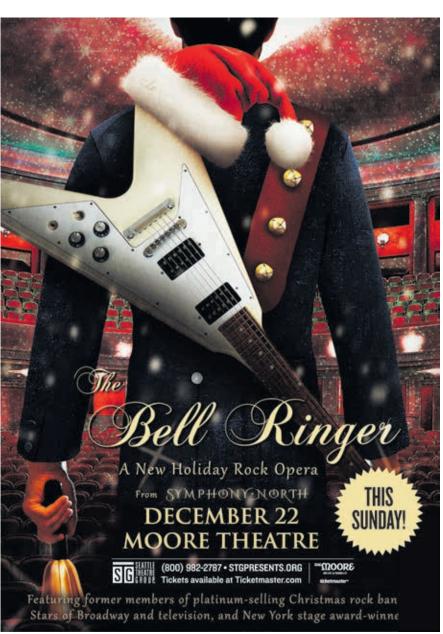
Straight No Chaser McCaw Hall, Mon Dec 30, 7:30 pm, \$40-\$70 Tower of Power

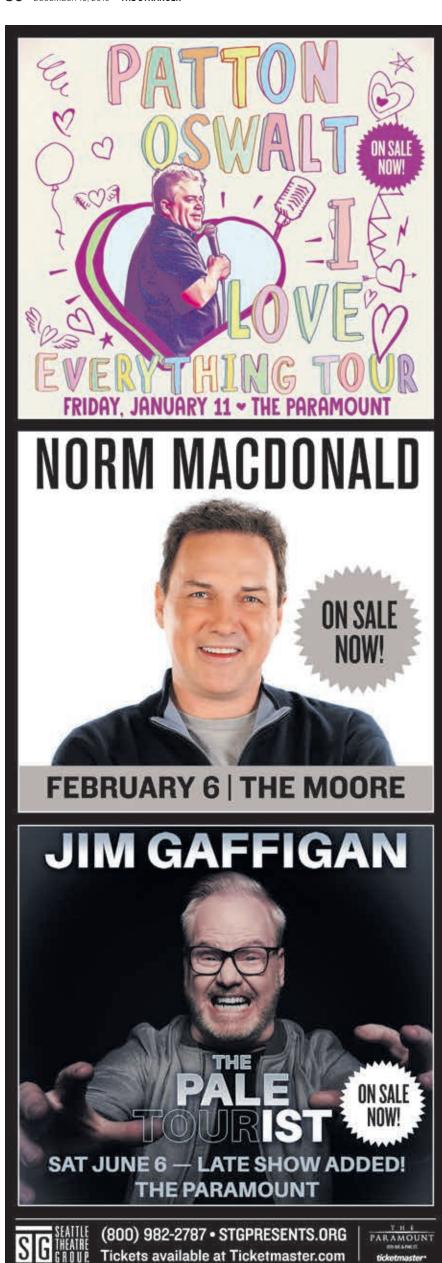
Emerald Queen Casino, Fri Dec 20, 8:30 pm, \$35-\$70+ Vince Guaraldi's A Char-

lie Brown Christmas Pacific Room, Sun Dec 22.8 pm. \$25-\$35

Yuki Aoki Quintet Pacific Room, Fri Dec 27, 8 pm. \$12-\$20







CROCODILE

12/18 WEDNESDAY



Bayside Capstan All Ages

12/19 **THURSDAY**



The Crocodile Presents: Mimosa

Bogl 21 & Over

12/21 **SATURDAY**



The Crocodile Presents: **Sera Cahoone** Lydia Ramsey All Ages

The Crocodile Presents:

12/22 SUNDAY



49th Parallel B*Boys, Zac Flewids All Ages

e Crocodile Presents. **She Wants Revenge** "This Is Forever" LP Tour

The Guidance

12/27 **FRIDAY**

12/26

THURSDAY



KEXP & The Crocodile Present:

Dām-Funk

Nosaj Thing, Machinedrum 21 & Over



Sun 3/22 LAUREN RUTH



Thu 4/2 LOUDERMILK (REUNION SHOW)



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TRIVIA • TACOS • TEQUILA TUESDAYS! 7-9P

FREE COMEDY EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT 8:30-10P

Early Warnings

BEARTOOTH & MOTIONLESS IN WHITE Showbox Sodo, Sat Jan 4, 7 pm, \$30/\$33

RODDY RICCH The Showbox, Tues Jan 14, 8 pm, \$25/\$30

EARTHGANG, MICK JENKINS The Showbox, Thurs Jan 16, 8 pm, \$23/\$25

THE GREEN Showbox Sodo, Thurs Jan 23, 8 pm, \$28

SEVENTEEN ShoWare Center, Thurs Jan 23, 7:30 pm, \$55-\$425

BRETT DENNEN Neptune Theatre, Fri Jan 24, 8 pm, \$24

THE DISTILLERS X ALEXISONFIRE Showbox Sodo, Sun Jan 26, 8 pm, \$41/\$45

JACQUEES Moore Theatre, Wed Jan 29, 8 pm, \$28/\$33

LIL TJAY The Showbox, Thurs Jan 30, 8:30 pm, \$28/\$32

SARAH MCLACHLAN Benaroya Hall, Sun Feb 2, 8 pm

VIOLENT FEMMES Moore Theatre, Sun Feb 9, 7 pm, \$37-\$57

BAT FOR LASHES Neptune Theatre, Mon Feb 10, 8 pm, \$25

WOLF PARADE, LAND OF TALK The Showbox, Tues Feb 11, 8:30 pm, \$31/\$33

BLAKE SHELTON Tacoma Dome, Fri Feb 14, 7 pm, \$39-\$109

ANTIBALAS Neptune Theatre, Thurs Feb 20, 8 pm, \$29/\$34

ATMOSPHERE, THE LIONESS, NIKKI JEAN, BLIMES & GAB, DJ KEEZY Showbox Sodo, Sat Feb 22, 8 pm, \$35

RAPSODY Crocodile, Wed Feb 26, 8 pm, \$20/\$25

MOE. Neptune Theatre, Thurs Feb 27, 8 pm, \$24/\$29

JOSHUA RADIN & FRIENDS WITH BEN KWELLER AND WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS Neptune Theatre, Fri Feb 28, 8 pm, \$28-\$38

THUNDERCAT Showbox Sodo, Sun March 1, 8 pm, \$30/\$35

BEST COAST, MANNEQUIN PUSSY The Showbox, Wed March 4, 8 pm, \$22/\$25

PRINCE ROYCE WaMu Theater, Wed March 4, 8 pm, \$61-\$141

PATTI SMITH AND HER BAND Paramount Theatre, Wed March 11, 8 pm, \$41-\$66

LESLIE ODOM JR. Neptune Theatre, Sun March 15, 8 pm, \$25/\$29

CHELSEA CUTLER, ALEXANDER 23 Showbox Sodo, Mon March 16, 8 pm, \$24/\$26

BIKINI KILL, TABLE SUGAR Paramount Theatre, March 16-17, 8 pm, \$44

DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS The Showbox, Wed March 18, 8:30 pm, \$30/\$35

WILCO Paramount Theatre, March 18–19, 7:30 pm, \$40–\$75

LA ROUX The Showbox, Thurs March 19, 9 pm, \$32/\$37

PUSSY RIOT Neumos, Fri March 20, 8 pm, \$26

G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE, JONTAVIOUS WILLIS The Showbox, Sat March 21, 8:30 pm, \$30

ALLEN STONE The Showbox, March 25-26, 8 pm. \$35

JOJO SIWA, THE BELLES Spokane Arena, Sun March 29, 7 pm

HOLY FUCK Neumos, Tues March 31, 7:30 pm, \$18-\$22

JOJO SIWA, THE BELLES Yakima Valley SunDome, Tues March 31, 7 pm

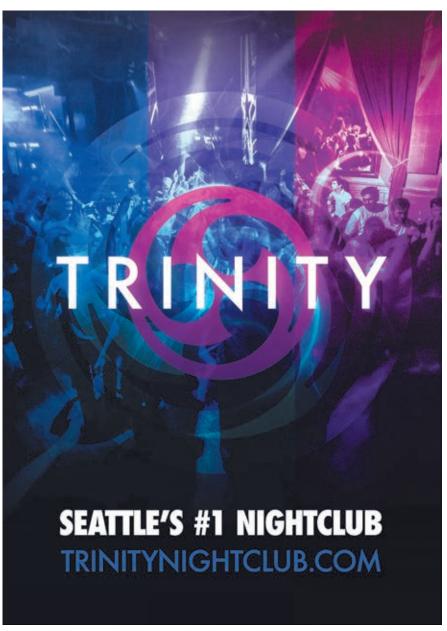
TENNIS Neptune Theatre, Tues March 31, 8 pm, \$19

TIGER ARMY, TWIN TEMPLE, LARA HOPE & THE ARK-TONES The Showbox, Fri April 3, 8 pm, \$25/\$30

VAV The Showbox, Fri April 3, 8 pm, \$54-\$129

THE MONKEES Moore Theatre, Sat April 4, 8 pm, \$37–\$87









DAN MANGAN Tractor Tavern, Mon April 13, 8 pm, \$15/\$17

SQUAREPUSHER Neumos, Wed April 22, 8 pm. \$32

SOCCER MOMMY, EMILY REO Neumos, Mon April 27, 8 pm, \$22-\$25

STURGILL SIMPSON, TYLER CHILDERS Gorge Amphitheatre, Sat May 2, 7:30 pm

CHER, NILE RODGERS, CHIC Angel of the Winds Arena, Mon May 4, 7:30 pm

MANDY MOORE Paramount Theatre, Wed May 6, 8 pm, \$36-\$96

M. WARD Neptune Theatre, Sat May 16, 8 pm, \$25

MUDHONEY, THE TRIPWIRES, THEE DECEPTION Crocodile, Sat May 16, 8 pm, \$27-\$30

ALANIS MORISSETTE, GARBAGE, LIZ PHAIR White River Amphitheatre, Wed June 3, 7 pm, \$26-\$126

 $\textbf{BRANDI CARLILE, SHERYL CROW, YOLA} \ \textit{Gorge Amphitheatre, Sat June 6, 6 pm}$

SWANS, ANNA VON HAUSSWOLFF Neptune Theatre, Sat June 13, 9 pm, \$28/\$34

Thurs 12/19

LIVE MUSIC

 ALMA MATER TACOMA David Archuleta, 8 pm, \$25

CAFE RACER Kingdow COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Jose Bold, 8 pm, \$15 CROCODILE Mimosa, Bogl,

A FEDERAL WAY PERFORMING ARTS AND EVENT CENTER The Journey's Annual Christmas Concert, 7:30–9:30 pm, \$28

★ NECTAR Anuhea, 9 pm,

OCCIDENTAL SQUARE Live Holiday Music in the Park, 11 am-1 pm, free

THE ROYAL ROOM Home for the Holidays - Night 1, 7–11 pm, \$12 SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Ouija Boob EP Release Party & Books to Prisoners Benefit Show, 7–10 pm SUBSTATION Antlerbag, The

Disorderlies, Some Rules, Bobby's Oar, 8 pm, \$8 SUNSET TAVERN Iris Drive, Hall-strom, Michael Sievers, 7:30 pm, \$10

TIM'S TAVERN Cosmonautical, Dice The Band, Jared Gottberg, 9 pm, \$7

★ TRACTOR TAVERN Greyhounds Caitlin Sherman, 8 pm, \$15

CLASSICAL/ **OPERA**

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols, 7:30-9 pm, \$13-\$45

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER Arts for All Holiday Sing, 6-7:30 pm, \$8/\$10

LO-FI Reflect, 8-11 pm TIMBRE ROOM Squadron DNB

JAZZ

CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE Lu Evers & Frie n 8 nm \$8

★ JAZZ ALLEY Judy Collins

DANCE **CONTOUR** 2Libras Album

Release Party, 9 pm, \$4

Fri 12/20

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Anthony Lee Phillips, Payge Turner, Secret Band, 7 pm, \$10

CAFE RACER Triggerwords, I Vignette, Baywitch, 8 pm, \$5

★ CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE Country Lips, Santa Poco, Double Country, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

★ CONOR BYRNE Ivan & Alyosha "Carols By the Fireside" 6–11:45 pm, \$20

THE COTTAGE Live Music | Lyle Ronglien, 7-10 pm, free

* EMERALD QUEEN CASINO Tower of Power, 8:30 pm, \$35-\$70+

A THE FUNHOUSE Autumnus, Hostilities, Sight Received, What's Wrong, Constanza, 8 pm, \$10/\$12 HIGH DIVE KII Smth, Zebbler 9 pm, \$13

JAZZBONES Roger Fisher of Heart, 7–11:30 pm, \$20/\$25

THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE

NECTAR Petty Or Not, Baby Cakes, 8 pm, \$15-\$50

★ ② NEUMOS AJJ, Amigo The Devil, Days N Daze, The Bridge City Sinners, 5 pm, \$32/\$35

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH** Erwilian: 13th Annual Holiday Concerts, 7-10 pm, \$25

★ THE ROYAL ROOM 5th Annual Kristin Chambers "Snow Globe", 7–8:45 pm, 9:30–11:45 pm, \$12/\$15

THE SHOWBOX Strangelove. Nite Wave. Rusholme Ruffians. 8 pm, \$23/\$25

SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE Finack and watering follows: The Warning, The Swaggerlies, Thankless Dogs, 8 pm

SUNSET TAVERN Night Hikes Talktin and Easy, Peter Michel, 9 pm, \$10

TIM'S TAVERN Christopher Hill & The Stardust Crush, Ian Jones and the Living Room All Stars. thedrifterluke 9 nm \$7

TIMBRE ROOM Subliminal: One Year Anniversary, 10 pm−2 am, \$5

★ TRACTOR TAVERN Fruit

Bats, Cataldo, Kacey Johansing, 9 pm, \$25/\$40

★ VERA PROJECT Donni D'usse Memorial Show, 7–10 pm. \$15/\$20 VICTORY LOUNGE Punk Rock

Christmas: Spiderface, Klondike Kate, and More!, 8:30 pm, \$8/\$10

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

 BASTYR UNIVERSITY Festive Venice 7:30-9:30 nm \$20-\$45

 BENAROYA HALL The Coats ral Holidau Show \$43-\$53 ★ BENAROYA HALL Handel's

(A) HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC

CHURCH Carmina Angelorum: Songs of the Angels, 8 pm, \$0-\$15

* (A) SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL Northwest Boychoir's 41st A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 7:30–9 pm, \$13–\$45

ST CHARLES BORROMEO Symphony Tacoma: Messiah 7:30–9:30 pm, \$30–\$48

ST DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHO-

ORA NIGHTCLUB Fancy as SUBSTATION Slay Bells: A Rock

JAZZ

CASA MEXICO Glenn Young

@ EGAN'S BALLARD JAM HOUSE Steve Messick's Holiday Jazz Showcase, 7–9:30 pm, \$12

★ JAZZ ALLEY Judy Collins PACIFIC ROOM Kelley Johnson

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE

Sat 12/21

LIVE MUSIC BARBOZA Heather Wicklund, 7

CAFE RACER Jocose Bird. Annie Ford Band, Twin Whistle, 9 pm THE COTTAGE Live Music | George Grissom, 6-9 pm, free DARRELL'S TAVERN Old

Dirty Buzzard, Dead on Cue, Bombsquad, 8 pm, \$7 HIGH DIVE Russ Liquid, Plantrae Willdabeast, 9 pm, \$15/\$20

THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE

M NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH Erwilian: 13th Annual Holiday Concerts, 7–10 pm, \$25 PARLIAMENT TAVERN Kline's

RAINIER ARTS CENTER A Soulful Christmas with Kalieb and Chandler Williams, 7 pm, \$22–\$43 RENDEZVOUS Dial M for Myrrh,

Kings, Martin Jensen, 9 pm, \$25/\$30

SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE Simmons, 9 pm

TIMBRE ROOM Lunar Plane TIMBRE ROOM Tremulant:

★ TRACTOR TAVERN Fruit

★ WAMU THEATER Rezz

\$35-\$50

★ BENAROYA HALL Handel's

BENAROYA HALL First Concerts: Meet the Piano, 9:30 am, 11 am, \$12

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

BENAROYA HALL The Coats

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - BELLEVUE Belle Chamber Chorus: Hope in a Pan-American Christmas – North Meets South, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$22

A PHINNEY RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH Winter Blossom - Wel spring Ensemble, 7 pm, \$0-\$20

★ 🖎 SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL Northwest Boychoir's 41st Annual Festival of Lessons

Carols 7:30-9 nm \$13-\$45 SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Solstice: Music of Light for the Holidays, 3 pm, 7:30 pm, \$0-\$40

TOWN HALL Festive Cantatas

- Christmas in Gabrieli's Venice, 7:30–9:30 pm, \$20–\$45

DJ

MONKEY LOFT THIS! with Diz. Q NIGHTCLUB Haute S 7illa \$10

SUBSTATION Winter Soulstice with Uniting Souls, 10 pm, \$7/\$10

JAZZ

HOTEL SORRENTO Sorrento Nights with Marina Christopher

★ JAZZ ALLEY Judy Collins Holidays & Hits, 7:30 pm, \$57 PACIFIC ROOM Jared Hall Quintet, 8 pm, \$17-\$25

A PARAGON Paragon Live Pres ents: The Evan Captain Trio Plays A Charlie Brown Christmas, 7–9

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE The

DANCE

SUBSTATION A Trip To Toytown 9 pm, \$15-\$30 SUNSET TAVERN Queens of

Pop Dance Party with DJ Baby Van Beezly - XMAS Edition!, 9 pm, \$10/\$13

Sun 12/22

LIVE MUSIC

★ CLEARWATER CASINO Stee

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Keith Harkin, 7 pm, \$35-\$75

© CROCODILE 49th Parallel, B*Boys, Zac Flewids, 8 pm, \$12

★ FL CORAZON CURRENSY OG

HIGH DIVE Whalien, Mr

Feelgood & The Firm Belie Guests, 8 pm, \$8-\$13

THINGS <u>TO</u> DO → Music

vith The Classic Crime, 6:30 pm, \$20_\$100

RENDEZVOUS Dial M for Myrrh \$25-\$125

THE SHOWBOX Surfaces, 8 nm \$17/\$18

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Terru Monstrosity & Blazinspace ReDo Kids Movies From the Past, 7–11 pm

 SPANISH BALLROOM eo Carmin, 6-9 pm, \$5

SUNSET TAVERN Common Courtesy, Beatrix Sky, SEAGAZER Bess and Amber, 8 pm, \$10

TRACTOR TAVERN The Sons of Rainier, Great Spiders, Mindie Lind, 8 pm, \$10

CLASSICAL/

- BENAROYA HALL The Coats Annual Holiday Show, \$43-\$53
- ★ BENAROYA HALL Handel's
- ★ BENAROYA HALL Seattle Men's Chorus: 'Tis The Season 8 nm \$25-\$81

A HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC 41st Annual A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 7-8:30 pm, \$13-\$45

△ MOORE THEATRE The Bell Ringer, 7 pm, \$27-\$47

 REDMOND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Fastside

Symphony Holiday Concert, 3 pm, \$0-\$6

A SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL Messiaen's La Nativité: Joseph Adam, Organist, 4:30 pm, \$15/\$20

SEA MAR MUSEUM OF CHICANO /A/LATINO/A CULTURE Ballard

Holiday Fiesta, 7:30-9:30 pm

JAZZ

THE ALLEY Sunday Jazz, 8-10 pm, free

CAFE RACER Table & Chairs Holidau Show 2019, 8 pm

CROSSROADS SHOPPING CENTER Byron Street Swing, 12:30-2:30 pm, free

★ JAZZ ALLEY Judy Collins Holidays & Hits, 7:30 pm, \$57

★ PACIFIC ROOM Vince Christmas, 8 pm, \$25-\$35

Mon 12/23

CLASSICAL/ **OPERA**

 BENAROYA HALL Northwest Boychoir's 41st Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols, 7:30–9 pm, \$13-\$45

D.I

CLUB SUR Seattle Throwback Holiday Nostalgia Party, 7-11 pm, free

JAZZ

THE ALLEY Monday Jazz, TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE Tim

Tues 12/24

LIVE MUSIC

OCCIDENTAL SQUARE Live am-1 pm, free

Wed 12/25

RE-BAR Miracle on Howell St: Tony H., Blueyedsoul, DGW, Sharlese, 9 pm, free

Thurs 12/26

LIVE MUSIC

⚠ NECTAR Knowmads, B-Bou Fidget, Tapes-One2, Mr. Hi-Def, 8 pm, \$12

OCCIDENTAL SQUARE Live Holidau Music in the Park. 11 am-1

THE ROYAL ROOM Home for the Holidays - Night 2, 6:30–10:30 pm, \$12

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

BENAROYA HALL Yiruma Nocturne 7:30 pm \$78-\$138

O UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN CHURCH University Unitari Church Presents the Messiah Sing-and-Play-Along, 7–11 pm,

Fri 12/27

* BELLTOWN YACHT CLUB Holiday Ball with Steel Be Long Day on Mars, Dragontail Peak, 9 pm, \$10

HIGH DIVE Electric Boots, Poker Face, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$15

KREMWERK Shook: Youngsta & Sepia, 10 pm-2 am, \$15

NECTAR AN-TEN-NAE, Sooha Pressha, Torbjorn, 8 pm, \$15 ★ ORA NIGHTCLUB Darude,

10 pm, \$15-\$400 THE ROYAL ROOM Let's

Unite The Whole World w El' Steiner, ex Licks, Thaddillac 8-11:45 pm, \$10

SUBSTATION No. nch, 9 pm, \$10 TIM'S TAVERN The Cleanse

Son Red, Electric Mermaid 9 pm, \$7

TRACTOR TAVERN Society of the Silver Cross, Moon Darling, Forest Ray, 9 pm, \$10

Q NIGHTCLUB Pop Secret Andrew Bayer, \$25

JAZZ

CASA MEXICO Glenn Young Trio, 6 pm

O CROSSROADS SHOPPING **CENTER** Northwest Jazz Big Band, 7-9 pm, free

★ PACIFIC ROOM Yuki Aoki

DANCE

MONKEY LOFT Stayin' Alive, \$20

Sat 12/28

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA New Love Syntax, SUS, Occlusions, 7 pm, \$8 CAFE RACER The Harper

★ CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE Dangerknife, Guests, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER The Griot Party Experience, 8 pm, \$20

★ CROCODILE Fruition, Danny Barnes, 8 pm, \$25 @ EGAN'S BALLARD JAM

HOUSE The Debutones Benefit Concert to Support PCC Farmland Trust, 7–9 pm, \$10 EL CORAZON The Emo Night

 THE FUNHOUSE Ghost Heart, Fauvism, The Fulton Incarnate, \$10/\$12

JAZZBONES Erotic City, 8-10:30 pm, \$15/\$20 LUCKY LIQUOR China Davis, Moberlus. The Rainiers. 9 pm, \$10

MOUNT BAKER
COMMUNITY CLUB Brian Vogan, 10:30 am, \$6-\$12

NECTAR Talking Dead with LDW (Talking Heads) & GBB (Grateful Dead), 8 pm, \$15-\$50

OWL N' THISTLE The

PARLIAMENT TAVERN Best You've Ever Seen: Gravity with Patrick Galactic & Jimi Jaxon, 8:30 pm

THE ROYAL ROOM MVP: Michael Jackson vs. Prince Live!, 9-11:45 pm, \$12/\$15

★ ② THE SHOWBOX MxPx Amber Pacific 8 nm \$30 SUNSET TAVERN Skablins,

Riddance, 9 pm, \$10 THE SWISS Nite Wave, 9 pm

TIM'S TAVERN Shagnasty, Fuzz Droner, Buffalo Preacher, Los Bongquistadors, 8 pm, \$7 TRACTOR TAVERN LeRoy Bell

& His Only Friends, Alec Shaw, 9 pm, \$25 TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE

CLASSICAL/

★ BENAROYA HALL The Four Seasons, \$26-\$90

A ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL **CHURCH** Northwest Chorale: Handel's Messiah, 6:30 pm, free

A TRINITY PARISH CHURCH Here We Come-A-Caroling, 8-10 nm \$20-\$40

CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE The Get HIGH DIVE I'm Not Okau!! An Emo & Pop Punk Dance Party!, 9 pm, \$10

MONKEY LOFT Ardalan - Mr Good Album Release Tour, 10 pm, \$17-\$22

Q NIGHTCLUB Haute Sauce: on, Lourawk, Famous Semaj, \$10

JAZZ

A CRUSSBUARS SHUBBING CENTER Moonlight Swing Orchestra, 7–9 pm, free

PACIFIC ROOM Danny Quintero & Illusionz Swing Orchestra, 8 pm, \$17-\$25

DANCE

SUBSTATION Celebrus Saturn

Sun 12/29

LIVE MUSIC

FAUNTLEROY SCHOOLHOUSE Brian Vogan & His Good Buddies, 11 am. \$6–\$12

THE ROYAL ROOM 7 on u Mash

TRACTOR TAVERN Country Holiday Hangover: The Lowdov Drifters, Darci Carlson, Santa Poco. 8 pm. \$10

CLASSICAL/

* BENAROYA HALL The Four

 BENAROYA HALL Corelli and 7-9 pm, \$10-\$48

JAZZ

THE ALLEY Sunday Jazz,

Mon 12/30

LIVE MUSIC

★ BARBOZA Fleetwood Snack, Lindseys, Malcolm Rebel, xRAWRx, Televangelish, 7 pm, \$10

★ MCCAW HALL Straight No.

★ A THE SHOWBOX The Rab, 8:30 pm, \$33/\$35

JAZZ

* JA77 ALLEY Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, 7:30 pm, \$37–\$201

DANCE

NECTAR Pre-NYE 2020 Bollyood Masquerade Party, 9 pm \$20-\$30

Tues 12/31

LIVE MUSIC

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Abney Park, 8 pm, \$35-\$200 DANCE UNDERGROUND Nev 'ear's Eve Tango Bash with Live Music! 8 nm-1 am \$35-\$45

DARRELL'S TAVERN New Years Eve! Purple Strange, MKB Ultra, Down with People, 8 pm, \$10 **★ EMERALD QUEEN CASINO**

New Years Eve Bash: The Commodores, 8:30 pm, free HIGH DIVE Love Vigilantes, Rusholme Ruffians, New Year's Dolls by The JV, 9 pm,

★ ② NEPTUNE THEATRE New \$30/\$34

\$25-\$300

O OCCIDENTAL SQUARE Live Holiday Music in the Park, 11 am-1 pm. free SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI

SHACK AND WATERING HOLE Accused AD, Detonator, The Dee Dees, 8 pm, \$15 * SUNSET TAVERN U.S.E. Aqueduct, 52Kings, 9 pm, \$28

(sold out) CLASSICAL/ OPERA

★ ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL ar's Eve Gala: Charp

BLOCK 41 New Year's Eve 2020 8:30 pm-1:30 am, \$99-\$149

ORA NIGHTCLUB NYE 2020: A Gatsby Affair with Gabriel and

Q NIGHTCLUB New Year's Eve 2020 \$30/\$35

JAZZ

★ JAZZ ALLEY Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, 7:30 pm, \$37-\$201

THE ROYAL ROOM New Years Eve with the Royal Room Big Band, 8 pm–1:15 am, \$30–\$75

★ TRIPLE DOOR New Year's Eve with Curtis Salgado, 7 pm, 10:30 pm, \$90-\$125

DANCE

CHOP SUEY Candi Pop New Year's Eve. 9 pm

EDEN SEATTLE Seattle Bollywood 2020 New Year's Eve Party Mega Celebration, 9 pm, \$25-\$100

LO-FI NYE SNAP! '90s Dance ORIENT EXPRESS Stauin' Alive

Wed I/I

LIVE MUSIC

DANCE UNDERGROUND New Year's Eve Tango Bash with Live Music!, 8 pm–1 am, \$35–\$45

★ THE FUNHOUSE Enuff Z'Nuff. Baby and the Nobodies, Aisha, Drastic Down, Thomas Weeks & Force of Nature, 8 pm, \$16-\$20

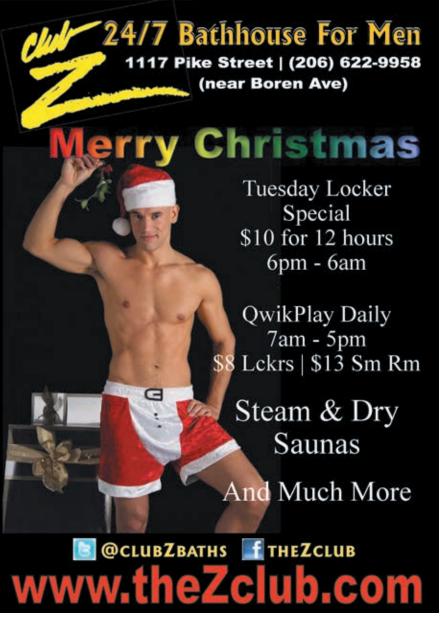
DJ

★ MONKEY LOFT The Breakfast Club - New Years Day 2020 with John Tejada, \$40

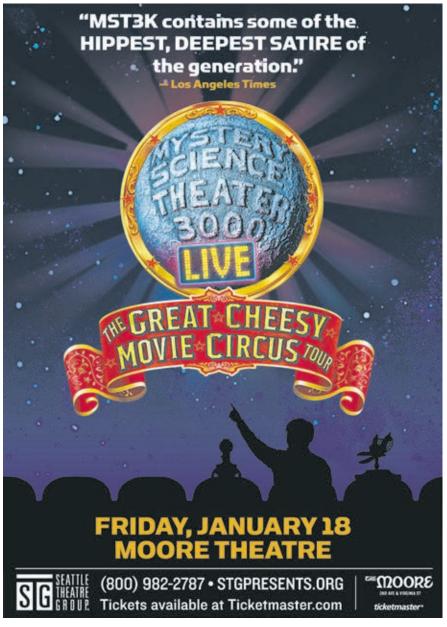


















The Relentless Hustle of *Uncut Gems*

Adam Sandler has a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

BY ERIK HENRIKSEN

oward Ratner is an asshole. He's an asshole to his wife, Dinah (Idina Menzel) He's an asshole to his girlfriend, Julia (Julia Fox). He's an asshole to his kids (who he, and we, hardly ever see). He's an asshole to his employees, including Demany (Lakeith Stanfield), as he sells diamond-encrusted baubles out of a cramped showroom in Manhattan's diamond district. He's an asshole to regular people, like receptionists

UNCUT GEMS dir. Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie Opens Wed Dec 25 and bouncers, and he's an asshole to famous people, like Kevin Garnett (Kevin Garnett) and The Weeknd (The Weeknd). And he's especially an asshole to

anyone he owes money to-which is a lot of people, chief among them being Arno (Eric Bogosian). And since Arno is also related to Howard, he really gets treated like shit.

It's not a coincidence that the first images we see of Howard are obtained via a colonoscopy, but even when the camera slides out of Howard's posterior to his exterior-

There's an anxious. addictive energy to Uncut Gems.

he's played, and played remarkably, by the version of Adam Sandler who is an amazing actoringood movies—there's still something that feels shitty about the guy. Howard never stops wheeling and dealing, and in the hours we spend with him, he says maybe two or three things that are true. The rest of the time, he says whatever gets him what he needs: to get paid, to get laid, to get let out of the trunk of his car, where Arno's thugs have locked him after smacking him around and

Sandler rarely leaves the screen in *Un*cut Gems, and the plot is basically Howard



Adam Sandler as Harold Ratner, wheeling and dealing and being an asshole to everyone he knows in 'Uncut Gems.'

addictive energy to Uncut Gems, and the Safdies' choppy, rapid-fire cuts coalesce into a surreal landscape of prismatic hues, blaring fluorescents, and sharp LEDs, all while the analog synth score by Daniel Lopatin (aka Oneohtrix Point Never) adds to the lurid

beauty. Like Good Time, the simultaneously sprawling and catastrophic *Uncut Gems* actually feels like the parts of New York where the tourists don't go-where long blocks and dark, narrow halls are kludged together with grimy brick and relentless hustle.

Uncut Gems. (Does this mean Adam Sandler

movies count as cinema?) There's an anxious,

But while Good Time ostensibly centered on a fractured fraternal bond, Uncut Gems has no such ties: Howard always feels alone as he bounces from misadventure to misadventure-from fights with Dinah to fights with Julia, from making threats to getting threatened (and sucker punched). He's a guy playing dangerous games that he's almost smart enough to win, and the only thing he cares about more than himself is a rare opal that may or may not have "magic powers."

Uncut Gems is a very Jewish movie—early on, Demany characterizes Howard as "a fuckin' crazy-ass Jew," and while just about every scene in the movie is stressful one of the less stressful moments takes place at a relatively relaxed Passover seder, where much is made of Dinah still fitting into her bat mitzvah dress and where we meet Howard's affable father-in-law (Judd Hirsch), who's soon to be one more unlucky schmuck in one of Howard's dumb-ass schemes. But despite all that, *Uncut Gems* feels particularly well suited for its Christmas Day release: Here we are, in the midst of a season when acquiring shiny things is paramount, when there's never enough time, when even the best plans fall apart, when family feels like an unwanted obligation, and when everyone is this close to turning into an asshole. Happy holidays.

Bad Day. That isn't a shock, considering Uncut Gems comes from brothers/writers/directors Josh Safdie and Benny Safdie, who party-crashed art-house theaters with 2017's twitchy, electric Good Time (in which Robert Pattinson was the one playing an asshole having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day). Uncut Gems is larger in scope, but like *Good Time*, its deadened core is a moral vacuum; both films take place in the no-man's-land where society's walls crumble and where those who look out only for themselves can navigate the rubble. The Safdies aren't interested in morality tales but amorality tales, and their stories' noholds-barred recklessness, while at first

and the Terrible. Horrible. No Good. Very

Thankfully, the Safdies also know how to shoot, cut, and score like nobody else—a sentiment presumably shared by Martin Scorsese, who serves as an executive producer of

freeing, steadily grows exhausting.

Top Picks

OPENING FRI DEC 20

'Star Wars: The Rise of Skvwalker'

This film concludes the Skywalker Saga, which in total contains three prequels, three originals, and three sequels. Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker is the end of the saga, for now, according to Disney CEO Bob Iger, whose mega-entertainment corporation purchased the Star Wars brand from

its creator, George Lucas, in 2012. J.J. Abrams, the director of the third sequel (The Rise of Skywalker), is also the director of the first sequel (The Force Awakens). The big question that will be answered during the Christmas season, when the film opens, is whether Abrams's second directorial contribution to the saga is as good or better than his first, which, in my opinion, is the third best film in the series. First, of course, is The Empire Strikes Back, and second is A New Hope. I'm also of the opinion that Abrams directed the best Mission: Impossible film (the third one). (Wide release.) CHARLES MUDEDE



CHASE

"Chase's writing reads like an insecure hyperventilating fever dream."

> - SLOG COMMENTER thestranger.com/slog





THINGS TO DO → Film



'Bombshell'

When Nicole Kidman, Charlize Theron, and Margot Robbie all link up, what have you got? Well, a sizable chunk of the Fox newsroom, as it turns out. In this movie adapted from real-life events, Bombshell follows three women who accused late Fox founder and CEO Roger Ailes of sexual harassment, and the fallout when their accusations were made public. Kidman portraus former Fox host Gretchen Carlson. Robbie plays a fictionalized producer, and Theron seemingly fully transforms into news anchor Megyn Kelly. Announced in the months following Ailes's death, the film will explore the toxic environment brewing over at the president's favorite news channel. (Various locations.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

OPENING WED DEC 25

'Little Women'

It's as if writer-director Greta Gerwig fancast Louisa May Alcott's iconic Little Women using a list of all the hottest (and most swoonworthy) actors right now. Saoirse Ronan as Jo?! Emma Watson as Meg?! Eliza Scanlen (from HBO's Sharp Objects) as Beth?! Scream queen Florence Pugh as Amy?! The floppy-haired Tim-

othée Chalamet as Laurie?! Meryl Streep AND Laura Dern playing Aunt March and Marmee March, respectively?! A film with a cast list of this caliber either buckles under the weight of its own star power or really shines. Though the Winona Ryder film version of the novel is the definitive interpretation for some, Gerwig's adaptation is sure to give it a run for its money. (Wide release.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

DEC 27-31



'My Neighbor Totoro'

The works from Hayao Miyazaki's famed Japanese animation film studio, Studio Ghibli, were pointedly unstreamable in the United States for forever. If fans wanted to watch beloved favorites like Spirited Away and Howl's Moving Castle, they





go see one of Ghibli's regular theatrical showings. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on how you look at it), the entire Ghibli catalog will be available on the new streaming platform HBO Max in May. So relish this chance to see the delightful My Neighbor Totoro in a theater. Opportunities like this may be rarer in the future. (Central Cinema, \$5-\$10). CHASE BURNS

UNSTREAMABLE

Where we recommend areat films you can find only on DVD.



'Croupier'

Sometimes you just need to dig into a Clive Owen film. And boy, is Croupier a good one. The 1998 neo-noir outing introduced the brooding young English actor to an American audience, as a tuxedoed croupier (card dealer) in a casino in London. Day is hard to come by in this film; most of the action takes place at night or in the windowless, underground casino. Owen as Jack, a down-on-his-luck writer with a preternatural gift for dealing, is cool and immutable. He's a Gemini, so he's charming, the type of dude who just finds women appearing naked before him. My favorite thing about Croupier is the sound of the different games: the chips stacked on the tables, the rattling of the marble ball spinning in the roulette wheel, the clip of the cards dealt in front of the players. This movie is perfect for your post-holiday-feast coma! (Available at Seattle Public Library and Scarecrow Video. More recs at thestranger. com/unstreamable.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MORE TheStranger.com/EverOut

Short List

Black Christmas (2019) Wide release

Black Christmas (1974) The Beacon, Mon Dec 23, \$13

Carol The Beacon, Dec 20-21

& 24, \$13 Cats

Wide release, opening Fri Dec 20 Clemency

Various locations, opening Fri Dec 27

The Dybbuk The Beacon, Sat Dec 21,

Fanny & Alexander The Beacon, Sun Dec 22,

Fiddler on the Roof SIFF Cinema Uptown, Wed Dec 25, \$25

A Hidden Life SIFF Cinema Uptown, opening Fri Dec 20, \$11/\$14

It's a Wonderful Life Grand Illusion, \$10, through Jan 2

Knives Out Wide release

Sunset Boulevard Seattle Public Library, Ballard Branch, Sun Dec 29, free

Tokyo Godfathers The Beacon, Sun Dec 22,

Early Warnings

FRENCH PLEASURES: THE FILMS OF ERIC ROHMER Seattle Art Museum, Jan 9-March 2, \$9/\$78

LIKE A BOSS Wide release, opening Fri Jan 10

UNDERWATER Wide release, opening Fri Jan 10

let's queer the air



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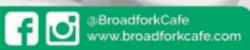
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OPEN DAILY





Beary Good Food

Oh Bear defines the new U-District Chinese food scene.

BY DAVID LEWIS

t the University District's new Oh Bear Cafe & Teahouse, you won't see any of the usual stylistic design choices of a Chinese joint: no paper lanterns, hand fans, dragons, Buddhas, or lucky cats with upright waving paws. Only teddy bears. Teddy bears everywhere. The cafe's signature sweet and savory crepes are even served in teddybear-shaped cardboard crepe holders.

Part of it is that Oh Bear is actually Taiwanese. Historically, the bulk of Seattle's Chinese immigrants came from Taishan a rural, mountainous, primarily agricultural

OH BEAR CAFE & TEAHOUSE 206-823-3688

region in China's southern Guangdong province. And the cuisine the people brought with them reflected their farming and

working-class backgrounds: high-calorie, large portion, family style servings—what non-Asians typically think of as "Chinese food." It's hearty and delicious, and you'll find it served at most Chinese restaurants on Beacon Hill and many in the International District.

The majority of the Chinese food you'll find in the U-District, and at Oh Bear. however, seems to be urban Chinese food, intended for younger, more cosmopolitan Chinese patrons-like the ones you'll find attending the University of Washington. Not only does it have to taste good, it must also be photogenic, so your friends can see how much you're living it up in the United States when you post pics to your Weibo

All of Oh Bear's culinary offerings look



The Japanese crepes are served in cone-shaped, teddy-adorned holders.

good on camera, from strawberry and chocolate mousse, to pork floss pineapple buns, to exquisitely (and sometimes adorably) decorated cakes. But it's the crepes that people are buzzing about. You can get Asian-style crepes all over the Ave these days, filled with everything from Peking duck to ice cream, but at Oh Bear, they offer both the Chinese-style jianbing and Japanese crepes. (The Japanese introduced crepes to Taiwan.

where Japan ruled from the late 19th century to the end of World War II, so you'll find more noticeable Japanese influences in Taiwanese food than in other Chinese cuisine.)

A jianbing is a big, hearty square of food the one they were serving at Oh Bear the day I visited was filled with deep-fried crackers. green onions, eggs, and black-bean sauce. It's more like a full-scale meal, the kind of breakfast an office worker in Beijing could eat on the way to work and be sated until dinner. Japanese crepes are much lighter, like a French crepe and served in a cone

Even more so than the crepes, though, the greatest Japanese influence on display at Oh Bear is in its croissant-taivaki (the Asian answer to the cronut). A taiyaki is a kind of fish-shaped cake made of waffle batter, normally filled with red-bean paste. At Oh Bear they are filled with everything from custard to Nutella to cheese and ham, and made from pressed croissants instead of regular batter.

I tried the smoked-salmon crepe, preferring its thin and crispy shell to the thicker, oily jianbing, and I enjoyed how the texture of its exterior complemented the thin squares of smoked salmon, spinach, and mayonnaise sauce within. An Oh Bear avocado milkshake proved disappointing, as it was so heavy on cream that it tasted more like a big glass of milk with a drizzle of avocado oil than the rich, creamy drink I prefer.

Still, no meal that ends with a warm Nutella-filled croissant-taiyaki can be bad. Neither the soft, flaky croissant texture nor the oozing hazelnut chocolate resembles Chinese food of old. But in the U-District, Chinese food is headed in a lot of new directions.

Top Picks

THURS DEC 19

Holiday Vegan Bake-Off, **Home Bakers Edition!**

Anyone who's ever drunk too much eggnog or eaten too many milk-chocolate Santas has likely realized how much better Christmas would be without dairu. The Animal Rights Initiative is hosting a holiday-themed vegan bake-off to show you just how much better. Home bakers will compete to see who can make the best candies, cookies, one-handed pastries (muffins, doughnuts, and the like), and fork pastries (pies and cakes) without using ingredients that came from anything with eyes and toes. Even if you don't have any sweet treats to enter, everybody is invited to come down and judge. (Seattle Public Library, West Seattle Branch, 5-7 pm.) DAVID LEWIS

DEC 20-21



Winter Solstice Night Market

This edition of the now-monthly Seattle Night Market (spearheaded by South Lake Union Saturday Market's Ryan Reiter) is held over a weekend in which the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year, winter solstice, falls. Hence the name. It's also indoors, which makes for a comfortable shopping (and eating) experience, with more than 150 booths, food trucks, and restaurant pop-ups that offer "locally made wares and tasty

fare" spread all throughout Magnuson Park's giant (20,000-square-foot) Hangar 30. Separate tickets into the Winter Solstice Beer Festival include samples of wintry brews from upwards of 25 local and regional breweries. Oh, there's live music, too. In sum, it's a groovy, beery, shoppy good time. (Magnuson Park Hangar 30.) LEILANI POLK

SUN DEC 22

Light Up the Night - Burger Fest

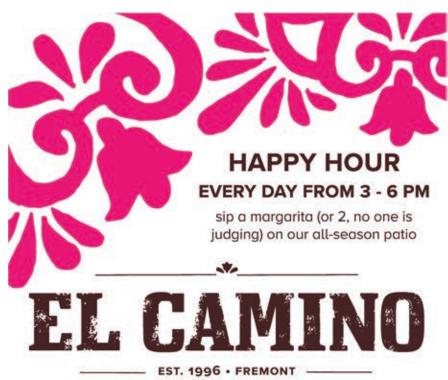
What do Jews and burgers have in common? You'll find both at this annual Hanukkah celebration hosted by CYP Seattle and Chabad of Downtown in Westlake Park. There will be a giant menorah lighting, to-go boxes featuring hot gourmet burgers and latkes (because who needs fries when you have those crispy potato pancakes?), all made with love by Rabbi Shmuly Levitin's wife, Chaya, and some volunteers, plus hot drinks and doughnuts, a mitzvah tank, live music by a Hasidic rock band, and a holidau market. It sounds

delicious festive and fun And admission is freel (Westlake Park, 5–8 pm, free.) LEILANI POLK

SAT DEC 28

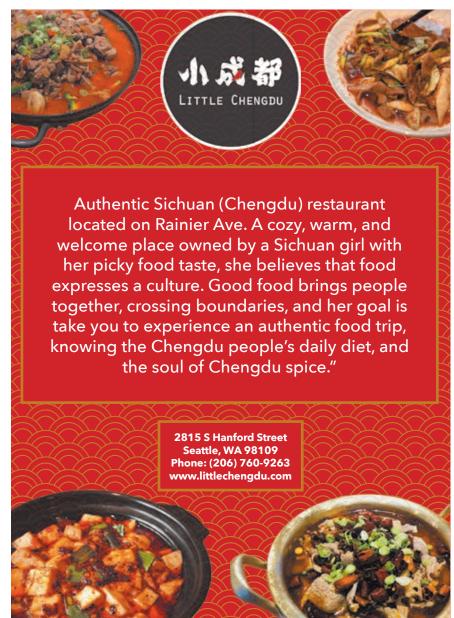
Romanian Night

The concept of Connect Lounge is in its name: to facilitate human connection IRL. There's even a "Phone Free Happy Hour" on Tuesdays, where you get an extra \$1 off happy hour drink prices if you stay off your phone. Their regular menu is "PNW cuisine with a little Romanian touch" (there's only one fully Romanian appetizer, mici, grilled rolls of meat made from a mix of beef, lamb, and pork-kind of like a sausage without the skin). But once a month, owner Iulia Bejan (who moved to the United States from Romania 11 years ago) has Romanian Night, and offers six or seven authentic Romanian dishes from her mom's recipes. According to Bejan, it's a way to share her culture and serve a type of cuisine that is generally scarce in Seattle, but it's also yet another way for people to



elcaminorestaurant.com (206) 632-7303







"Unlike Nathalie, Louis C.K. was always funny."

- SLOG COMMENTER thestranger.com/slog





THINGS \overline{TO} DO \rightarrow Food & Drink



connect: "We encourage conversations and being social, and the events we are doing support our vision." The Romanian Night menu also features mici, in addition to other authentic fare, like sarmale (cabbage rolls), ciorba taraneasca (beef stew with potatoes and veggies), and tocanita de pui cu galuste (chicken and dumpling soup). Delicios! (Connect Lounge, 6:30–10:30 pm.) LEILANI POLK

TUES DEC 31

One Night in Osaka: NYE 2019

Seattle in the 2020s might not be an easy place to live, but at least it will have great Japanese cuisine. Adana chef and owner Shota Nakaiima is opening another new bar/restaurant venture, Taku, next year, and he'll be previewing what's to come at this One Night in Osaka New Year's Eve party. Nakajima's culinary talents and Osaka street food offerings (the theme is "Alleyways of Osaka" and it's also the style of food he'll serve at Taku) will be bolstered by another Japanese cuisine biggie, Kamonegi's Mutsuko Soma, one of Food & Wine magazine's best new chefs of 2019, plus Umami Kushi, and chefs Jose Garzon (Latinx Street Food pop-up) and Justin Khanna (The Emulsion Podcast, Voyager's Table). With Seattle's top Japanese chefs alreadu confirmed to be in attendance, and a selection of Japanese libations (Haku vodka, Roku gin, Toki whiskey, Kirin beer), dancing, and "surprise guests" delivering the entertainment, it's sure to be a deliciously fun way to end 2019. (Adana, 8 pm-1 am, \$167.) **DAVID LEWIS**

MORE

TheStranger.com/EverOut

New Bars & Restaurants

BELLEVUE

Mango Mango Dessert Mango-centric sweets shop 103 Bellevue Way NE

CAPITOL HILL Taurus Ox

Laotian restaurant 1523 E Madison St, Suite 101 Zaika

Indian fusion restaurant 1100 Pike St

CHINATOWN-International District

Chung Chun Rice Dog Korean-style "corn dogs with rice flour batter 502 S King St

Republic of Cider

Cider taproom 2960 Fourth Ave S, #109

Short List

6th Annual Dark Beer Fest

Flying Lion Brewing, Dec 20–22, 10 am–12 am, free Addo - Hot Pot Night

Addo, Thurs Dec 26. 6:30 pm, \$55

Christmas Feast at **Hotel Sorrento**

Hotel Sorrento, Wed Dec 25, 12-8 pm, \$110

CrackleCreme Pop-Up Ba Sa, Sat Dec 21, Sun Dec 22, 10 am-12 pm

Grateful: A That Brown Girl Cooks! Celebration Washington Hall, Thurs Dec 19, 6-9 pm, \$25

Hanukkah at Dingfelder's

Dingfelder's Delicatessen Sun Dec 22, 11 am-8 pm

Holiday Tea Hotel Sorrento, Fri-Sat, \$70, through Dec 28

Martinis and Mistletoe Thompson Seattle, Thurs Dec 19, 5-8 pm, free

Miracle on 2nd Rob Roy, through Dec 24 New Years Eve Karaoke

& Yakitori Party
TanakaSan, Tues Dec 31, 9 pm-12 am, \$50

Nordic New Year's Fest Swedish Cultural Center, Tues Dec 31, 8 pm 12:30 am, \$35-\$75

Oyster Feast with Pleasant Bay Oyster Farm at The Growler Guys The Growler Gui Thurs Dec 19, 5–9 pm

Saimin Night Super Six, Sat Dec 21, 5–11 pm

Sippin' Santa Vinnie's Raw Bar, Tues-Sat, 4 pm, through Dec 24 $\,$

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Early Warnings

HANGOVER BRUNCH 2020 Super Six, Wed Jan 1, 11 am-3 pm

SAMISH BAY NIGHT TIDE SOIREE Taylor Shellfish Farms, Sat Jan 11 & Sat March 7, \$150

CHOCOFEST 2020 Pike Brewing Company, Sun Feb 9, 6 pm, \$55

3RD ANDERSON WINTER BEER FESTIVAL McMenamins Anderson School, Sat Feb 15, 12-10 pm, \$28

SEATTLE BACON AND BEER CLASSIC 2020 T-Mobile Park, Sat April 25, 12-10 pm

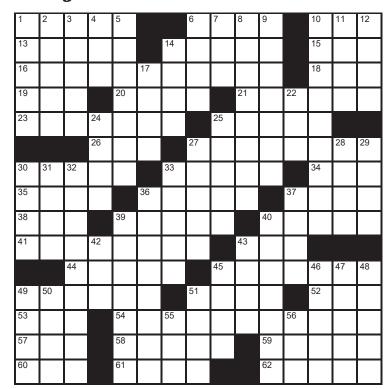
Krampus is going to kidnap you next.

Adult Coloring Page!

Krampus beating Jeff Bezos in a forest.



Party Till You Puke BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY



ACROSS

- 1. Antic event
- 6. Real a-hole
- 10. Islam pilgrimage
- 13. "My Neighbor Totoro" genre
- 14. Chick on the keys
- 15. High card
- 16. Bender stop #1 (late morning)
- 18 Gentle touch 19. Baton Rouge sch.
- 20. Film genre with detectives and dames
- 21. Eat your peas, informally
- 23. Appears that way
- 25. "Eeny meeny ___ moe" 26. Ones who go either way
- 27. Western comics antihero played by Josh Brolin
- 30. Sheet on a bed
- 33. Intense desire
- 34. Sturdy tree
- 35. Friends at the Sorbonne
- 36. Did a fancy move on the field, say
- 37. Guiding spirit
- 38. Internet connectivity problem
- 39. Actress Samira of "The Handmaid's Tale"
- 40. Cab driver's income
- 41. Pulled off

- 45. "All Apologies" band 49. Vehicle on the farm
- 51. Shakespeare villain
- 52. Trash collector
- 53. Actress Thurman 54. Bender stop #2 (early
- 57. Hit with a Taser
- 58. Kind of acid
- 59. Drink made with apples
- 60. Hammer-___(guitar playing techniques)
- 61. Heroin, in slang
- 62. File material

DOWN

- 1. Rings up
- 2. 49-Down flavor
- 3. Stir, as interest
- 4. Bird that can run upwards of 30 miles per hour
- 5. Dials back
- 6. Soup du _
- 7. Sea eagle
- 8. Chilled out in a man cave,
- 9. "Big" surfers on Hawaii
- 10. Bender stop #3 (late afternoon)
- 11. Foodie berry
- 12. Punk rocker Joan

- 22. "Don't impress me"
- 24. Brit. honors
- 25. Greenbacks
- 27. Fooled around
- 28. Make things less intense
- 29. Fancy Jaguars
- 30. ["what are these lyrics again?"]
- 31. Computer that comes with
- 32. End of the bender (just go to bed already, no need for these)
- 33. Cartoonist Feiffer
- 36. Cat's lingo
- 37. Basketball announcer Albert
- 39. Super eccentrics
- 40. "Finally!"
- 42. Retirement vehicle
- 43. Model ___ Hadid 45. Smack collector
- 46. Bear with
- 47. Levi's Stadium player, briefly
- 48. Mad as hell
- 49. Athens aperitif
- 50. Storm or Rogue, e.g.
- 51. Right, in 36-Down 55. Affirmative word
- 56. Jimmy's girlfriend on "Better Call Saul"

Find the solution at anger.com/puzzlesolution











THANK YOU FOR THE IMPACT YOU MAKE!

With your support, Northwest Harvest stands with communities who experience discrimination and inequality. In addition to making sure that those who suffer from hunger have access to nutritious food, Northwest Harvest works on shifting public opinion, as well as impacting institutional policies and societal practices that perpetuate hunger, poverty, and disparities in our communities.

Your help makes all of this possible. Because of your donations of food, money, and time, Northwest Harvest is able to provide nutritious food to a statewide network of food banks, meal programs, and high-need schools. With your continued support, we are bringing communities together with the basic common goal of providing food today and eliminating hunger tomorrow.

We wish you a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season.











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SERVICE DOG MISSING - PLEASE HELP FIND TANK!



IF YOU SPOT TANK

 ✓ Take a photo if you can
 ✓ Note specific location time, and behavior

Call 360-474-4844

Tank is a highly trained, disciplined black Lab who senses our son's blood glucose levels and alerts him when it's out of bounds.

Tank disappeared from our home on Whidbey Island on November 12th

We believe someone picked him up and potentially took him off island.

TANK is sick and requires medicine for mobility – WE NEED TO FIND HIM FAST.

Due to medical issues, Tank cannot wear a collar, but he is double chipped, and he makes a noticeable breathing sound when exerting himself.

TANK has saved our son Michael's life many times.

HELP US SAVE TANK!

PLEASE SHARE with neighbors, family & friends and post on your social media

Get updates at facebook.com/tankpage



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Ballard 1708 NW Market St. 12PM - 7PM, closed Tues.

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